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HISTORY  
OF THE  
SETTLEMENT AND INDIAN WARS  
OF  
TAZEWELL COUNTY,  
VIRGINIA;

WITH  
A Map, Statistical Tables, and Illustrations.

BY  
GEO. W. L. BICKLEY, M. D.,  
COR. MEM. AMER. PH. SOC.; COR. MEM. WEST. ACAD. NAT. SCIENCES;  
SEC. JEFF. HIST. SOCIETY.

---

"Who would not cherish the history of such men as our ancestors?"

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THE GENTLEMEN COMPOSING THE  
JEFFERSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

THIS VOLUME  
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY  
THE AUTHOR.





## P R E F A C E .

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PERHAPS, no books need prefatory remarks so much as those of history. History, as such, is evidence for generations who have yet to rise and figure on the stage of human affairs. This, then, being the proper definition of history, it becomes at once evident, that the reader should make himself thoroughly acquainted with all the circumstances under which the author wrote. Writing history from tradition is a very different thing from reducing to order a heterogeneous mass of recorded facts. While the one is a sure guide to the historian, and from which he cannot depart; the other is full of uncertainty and apt to betray a writer into error and misrepresentations.

Authors have another object in prefacing their books, viz: they can refer directly to themselves; and as it is natural for men to say more good things of themselves, than they are willing to say of any one else, they naturally expect every body to put great stress upon the preface.

Be this as it may, I promise to leave myself out of the question, as soon as I have stated why I have been induced to take upon me the labors of the historian—labors more important, and requiring greater skill in their execution, than

most persons imagine. An error introduced is not to be recalled, for the pages of history are as undying as the existence of nations. So long as Tazewell county shall have a separate identity, will this book be a source of authority, unless it be found erroneous; and even then, it will be used and defended by such as can make its statements subserve their ends. I hope, in the honesty of my heart, that if errors are found, that they will be immediately exposed; for it would be far from my purpose to fasten one false statement upon the noble people whose history I have written. That there will be objections to my book is to be expected; men do not like to have their errors exposed, or yield old and cherished opinions; objections from such persons I shall not weigh. But, kind reader, you must know why I have written this history.

When I returned to my native county (Russell) after an absence of more than twenty years, I rationally enough began to inquire something about the times of my birth, and of the men who were then figuring in the south-west. Few were to be found, whose knowledge seemed definite on any subject which extended beyond their own day and time. Occasionally I met with an old man whose mind seemed but little impaired, and whose eye would glisten with a tear as he rehearsed the deeds of those who were his companions in boyhood, but most of whom, were now in the charnel house of the peaceful dead. Vivid scenes of border life were painted in still more vivid colors, till I felt myself in the presence of one of those spirits who, like Daniel Boone, had relinquished every claim to ease and safety, to enjoy the wild

adventures of a backwoodsman, happy only in the prospective virtue and independence of his offspring. Many, indeed, have been the happy hours spent in listening to these rehearsals from men who are now sleeping quietly in the bosom of the earth.

My residence was eventually changed from Russell to Tazewell county, where, at the suggestion and assistance of my friend H. F. Perry, M. D., we succeeded in establishing a historical society, the avowed object of which, was to collect and preserve the history of the Settlement, and Indian Wars of South-western Virginia. The citizens of Tazewell joined us, and exhibited the same zeal which had actuated both myself and the worthy gentleman above referred to.

But we soon felt the need of an outline by which to be guided in our labors: gentlemen of the society requested me to undertake to furnish the needed guide, which has swelled, contrary to expectation, into a large volume. My greatest difficulty has been to distinguish the real from the ideal, and with this exception, I may say that I have been pleasantly engaged in endeavoring to furnish to the society the needed work. It is to be much regretted that this work had not been undertaken several years ago, when the chief actors who have been introduced were still alive.

I have assumed a style peculiarly my own, and which is, at once, plain and pointed: aiming at simplicity of style rather than beauty of diction has placed the work within the comprehension of every child. I have spoken plainly and fearlessly of any errors, virtues, disadvantages, or advan-

\*  
PREFACE.

tages which I have found to exist in Tazewell. Each subject has been taken up and treated at length before leaving it; so that the reader who would make any inquiry about Tazewell county, has only to turn to the table of contents, and refer to the chapter in which the subject is mentioned. I have been careful to give my authority on all questionable points, wishing my book to be found worthy of public confidence.

My object in first writing a history of Tazewell county, was to excite the members of the Jeffersonville Historical Society to action. The work will be continued in separate and distinct books, till the history of the whole south-west shall have been written, provided I meet with the same encouragement elsewhere, which has attended my labors in Tazewell. The local character of my work should convince the public, that mercenary motives have not actuated me in preparing this volume. Had the Jeffersonville Historical society not been established, I am quite confident that I should not have become historiographer. I feel deeply interested in the fate of this institution, inasmuch as I might reasonably look upon its existence, as the fruit of my own labors conjoined to those of Dr. H. F. Peery.

I have long since declared, and still reiterate the opinion, that it is positively a serious injury to look alone to the north for that literary culture which must, in no small degree, tend to make certain impressions upon the minds of our children—the future men of the great south—which are not altogether congenial to our peculiar institutions. And feeling that Virginia has not been least in her quota of great minds, I

believe that much talent may be called into action (which would otherwise remain in obscurity), by the general organization of such institutions. A single instance will serve to illustrate my views.

There is in all south-western Virginia, scarcely a school boy who is not better acquainted with the history and geography of New York or Massachusetts, than of his own beautiful state, of mountains and hills, and valleys and streams.

The simple statement of having collected the facts, and written the following pages in the short space of seven weeks, will, I hope, be a sufficient apology for its many imperfections. That some repetition would occur, is to be expected from the local character, and detail in which the work is written. That a complete history of south-western Virginia is greatly needed, none will deny; and that to develop its resources is alone necessary to insure a dense population, all agree. Persons speak of settling western lands, because the eastern states, or those bordering on the Atlantic, are too densely populated. But how ridiculous is this idea, when we reflect that the day is not very distant, when every acre of land—east and west—will be occupied! The population of Europe exceeds 800,000 000; while the square miles are only 3,500,000, so that only eight acres of land are to be had for each person. One-third of this is inaccessible, which gives only a little over six acres to each soul. The population of Great Britain is upward of 20,000,000, while there is only about 83,000 square miles, one-third of which, is occupied for building

purposes, and one-third devoted to other uses, than growing grain for the sustenance of her masses; so we see less than eight-tenths of an acre supporting one man. Now let us apply this calculation to Tazewell county. This contains 3000 square miles, or 1,920,000 square acres, and admitting that the soil is only half so productive as that of England, and only one half of this accessible, we shall then see that Tazewell county is capable of supporting 300,000 persons.

Every requisite for supporting a dense population is here found; and while queen Health continues to stretch out her inviting arms to the sick man, the country must continue to grow and enrich, till in process of time, 300,000 persons will be scattered over this beautiful county, to cultivate and make it bloom like a garden in the tropics. But the lands must pass into other hands; the large tracts of one, two, and three hundred thousand acres, must have been cut up into small bodies; a circumstance which will take place as soon as the titles are positive. A city will then have grown out of Jaffersonville. The heavy sound of the dray wheel, and the rattle of the stage and omnibus over our fine roads, will be echoed back from our mountains, while the heavy stamp and scream of the machine-horse, will startle the wild eagle from his nest and awaken life and energy among the honest yeomanry settled along the verdant valleys. The coal-smoke from the iron-furnace and the mines, will be seen curling upward over the mountain-peaks, and losing itself in the clouds. Telegraphic wires will connect us with the capital of our state while the printing-press and loom, will no longer be

objects of wonder. Should no political evil intervene, and the pillars of our nation stand secure, it will be seen that the above will be but a faint picture of what is now Tazewell, in 1952.

Before closing this already lengthened article, I beg to return to my worthy friend H. F. Peery, M. D., my thanks for much valuable information respecting the early history of this county. While editor of the Jeffersonville Democrat, he had acquired much valuable information of the early settlers, which he has kindly imparted to me. To him, I am also indebted for the list of plants and forest trees contained in this book.

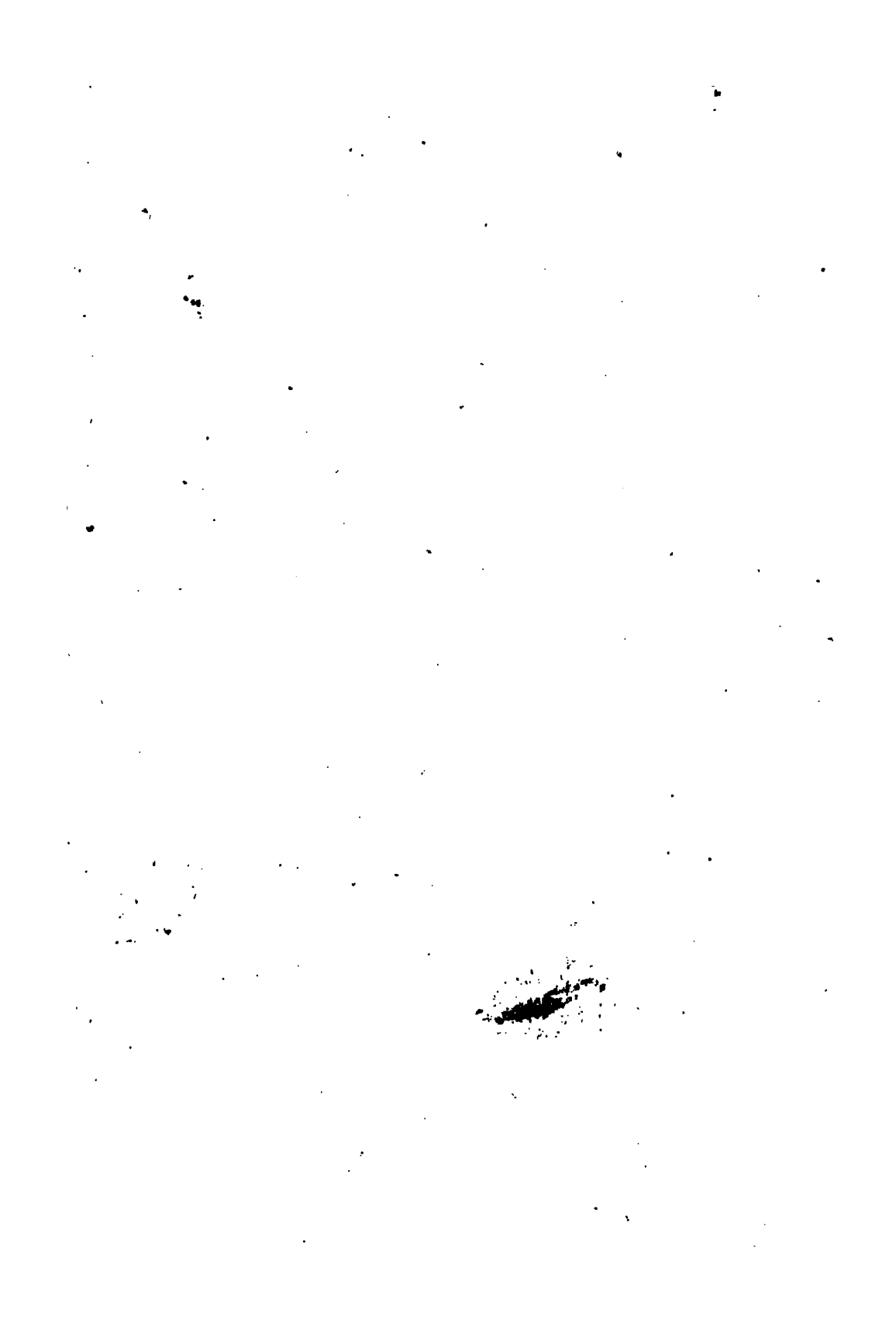
To Col. Rees T. Bowen, John Wynn, Esq., Thos. Witten, Samuel Witten, Maj. Henry S. Bowen, William Barnes, Esq., and to William Thompson, I am under obligations for valuable information.

I owe an apology to the public, for not having furnished the fifteen engravings originally promised in the prospectus. If I had done so, the work could not have been sold at subscription price. If I shall have succeeded in properly setting forth the claims of Tazewell county, I shall be proud of my work, and still continue to labor for those whom I love and respect—the people of the south-west.

G. W. L. B.

*Jeffersonville, Virginia, May, 1852.*





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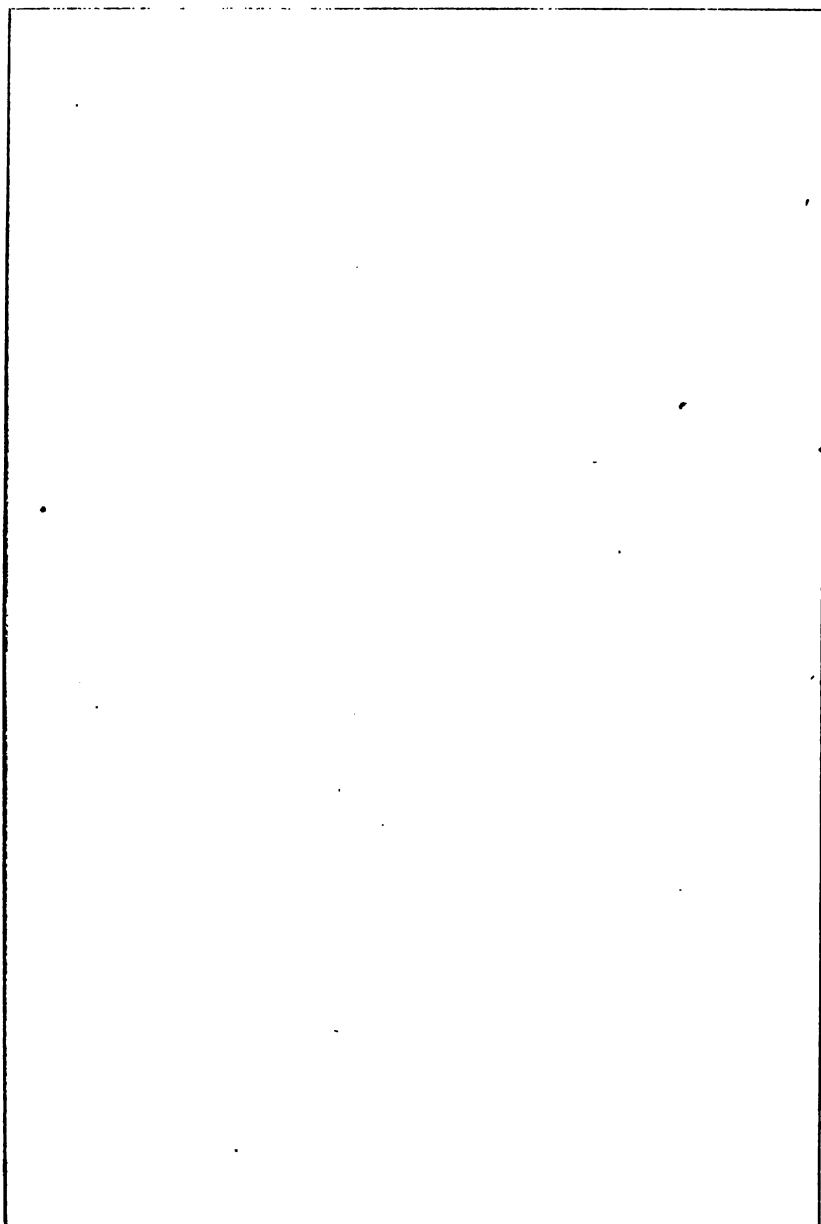
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**BOOK I.**  
**OUTLINE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA.**



OUTLINE HISTORY  
OF  
V I R G I N I A .

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CHAPTER I.

OUTLINE HISTORY.

1492.] AMERICA was discovered by Christopher Columbus. Its discovery has since been claimed by the Icelanders, the Welsh, and the Norwegians.

1497.] Giovanni Gabota, or John Cabot, sailing under a charter, obtained from Henry VII, of England, discovered Prima Vista, or New Foundland, the island of St. John, and the rugged cliffs of Labrador on the continent. As was to be expected, Cabot declared he had found a New World, little dreaming that a vast body of land extended from Labrador to Cuba, the point at which Columbus had realized all his hopes. Nor is he justly entitled to share the merit which attaches itself to the father of navigators; for the existence of land in the west, and the practicability of reaching it had been demonstrated by Columbus five years before.

1498.] This year, the Cabots (John and his sons), had their charter renewed, in consequence of which, an expedition was fitted out and placed in charge of Sebastian Cabot, who pursued a more northerly course than that taken by his father. The immense barriers of ice, and the severity of the weather, how-

ever, forced him to abandon his scheme of finding a N. W. passage to the Indies; he accordingly changed his course and sailed south as far as Virginia.

1500.] The Spaniards were busily engaged discovering and colonizing Central America; the Portuguese were rapidly insinuating themselves into the interior of South America; while the French in Canada, and from the sources to the mouth of the Mississippi, were winning for themselves the admiration of Europeans, as discoverers in the New World.

1520.] But of all the discoveries hitherto made in America, none were so brilliant as those of Mexico and Peru. Cortez in Mexico, and Pizarro in Peru, seemed to have found countries which, if not the Indies proper, were equal to them in wealth and importance.

1539-40.] De Soto, acting under a Spanish commission, extended his discoveries from the south of Florida, inland to Virginia and Carolina on the north, and to the Mississippi on the west. But as I propose only to touch the Outline History of Virginia, I pass over such incidents as belong more properly to a history of the United States, and proceed as briefly as possible to the settlement of Virginia.

1576-8.] Under the patronage of Elizabeth, who was now upon the British throne, Martin Frobisher sailed in a north-westerly direction, and entered Frobisher's straits. He carried home a stone mingled with gold, which paved the way for fitting out two other larger expeditions by the British queen and her merchants, whose avarice was awakened by the glittering rock brought home by Frobisher on the return of his first expe-

ditions from the icy wilderness of the north. Both these expeditions were, however, fruitless of importance.

1579-83.] Sir Humphrey Gilbert made two voyages, which likewise proved failures. Gilbert, together with most of his men, was lost in his second voyage: only one of the five vessels which had sailed from England returned in safety.

1584.] Sir Walter Raleigh, step-brother of Gilbert, regardless of the fate of his relative, fitted out an expedition, and having obtained a charter, set sail for a more southerly region than those visited by his countrymen. On the 13th of July, the English entered Ocracoke Inlet, within the limits of the present State of North Carolina. Remaining here some time, they set sail for England; and, so glowing was the description given of the country, that Elizabeth called it Virginia, in commemoration of her unmarried life.

1585.] Raleigh sent out a second expedition, in which were one hundred and eight colonists; and, among them, several persons of learning. But, being over-anxious to acquire wealth, the English brought upon themselves the hatred of the natives, by attempting to coerce them into a disclosure of the locality of their treasures. In a short time, the English found themselves reduced to a deplorable condition, and were meditating a return to England, when fortunately Sir Francis Drake arrived upon the coast, and would have rendered them the necessary aid, but for a storm which destroyed a great portion of his fleet.

1586.] The colony, seeing their prospects in the future so gloomy, begged Drake to take them home, which he did.

Raleigh sent out other vessels to their relief; but, finding no colonists, they returned. Sir Richard Grenville, who commanded one of the relief squadrons, seeing the island deserted, left fifteen men on Roanoke Island, to keep possession, in the name of Great Britain.

1587.] Raleigh was not to be beaten off from his purpose, by a few failures, as will appear from the fact of his sending out another expedition, with orders to build a town, to be called the city of Raleigh (a name since revived in the present metropolis of North Carolina), on the shores of the magnificent Chesapeake Bay. John White, who had been appointed governor, was, however, compelled to establish himself upon Roanoke Island; a step much against his wishes. White was soon compelled to repair to England, to procure succor for the colony. The generous Raleigh loaded his vessels, and sent him forth, but White commenced a crusade against Spanish merchant ships, regardless of his subjects, till finally he was captured himself, and compelled to return to England.

1590.] Peace having been restored, White was again dispatched to the relief of the colony: but, when he arrived, they were gone; a rough inscription, upon a tree, indicated Croaton as the place whither they had gone. It is supposed that this unfortunate colony became amalgamated with the Hatteras Indians. Humanity can but wish it were true.

## CHAPTER II.

## OUTLINE HISTORY — CONTINUED.

THE settlement at Jamestown may be regarded as the starting point for all histories of Virginia. But in order to convey to the reader's mind a clear view of the difficulties attending the early settlement and occupation of Virginia, and the peculiarities of the times, it is necessary to introduce to him incidents of a prior date: this necessity occasioned the remarks of the previous chapter. And though an outline of Virginia history would seem superfluous to a history of a section of the state, I have availed myself of the historian's license to introduce it, in this manner, upon the same principle that the biographer would, in writing the life of an individual—first tell the reader all about the parentage of the person whose life he intended to write. Virginia may be said to be the mother of Tazewell, and England the grandmother; and, as this work will fall into the hands of many who are not perhaps well versed in Virginia history, this condensed account, may not be altogether uninteresting to the general reader.

1606.] After the failures of Raleigh, it would not be supposed that the English would be very active in colonizing; but, to stir up the energies of an Englishman, he needs reverses and opposition. So, fifteen years after the return of Governor White, Bartholomew Gosnold prevailed upon Captain John Smith, Edward M. Wingfield, a wealthy merchant,



and Robert Hunt, a clergyman, to join him in founding a colony in Virginia. Sir Ferdinand Gorges, Sir John Popham, and Richard Hacklyt became their patrons, and a charter\* was procured from King James to make a settlement in Virginia. To insure the settlement of Virginia, then embracing all that immense country between the 34° and 45° N. L., and all islands within one hundred miles of the coast, it was divided, by charter, between two companies, known respectively as London and Plymouth companies. The London Company sent out an expedition under command of Captain Newport, which, however, did not arrive upon the coast until the following year.

1607.] Arriving at the mouth of a beautiful river, the English ascended it and gave it the name of their sovereign, James, but which at that time, bore the name of Powhatan, a prince equally notorious. Ascending this river about fifty miles, they selected a spot and commenced building a town; which also, in honor of their king, they called Jamestown. Newport and several others, among whom was Smith, were sent to discover the head of the river. In six days they arrived at a village called Powhatan and belonging to King Powhatan, the Indian monarch. This village was situated at the falls of the river, near the present site of the city of Richmond. During the absence of Newport and his company, Jamestown was attacked by the natives, and, in its

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\* This Charter will be found in Stith—Henning's Statutes, at large, page 60. It is the most important of the early charters, because, under it the first permanent settlement in Virginia was established.

defenseless state, would have been destroyed but for the timely aid of the vessels in the river. In this skirmish seventeen men were wounded and a boy killed. When Newport and his companions returned and reported the character of the river and the power of the Indian king, at whose towns they had been hospitably entertained, the governor consented to have Jamestown fortified. Though Smith had been named by the king as one of the council; jealousy on the part of his comrades had deprived him of his seat; and when Newport sailed for England, he was sent home charged with a design to usurp royal authority. His accusers employed false witnesses to establish his guilt; but when they arrived in England they chose rather to speak the truth, which served not only to expose the meanness of the Jamestown council, but to elevate Smith in the estimation of the company.

Smith soon returned, and by his bold management and sound judgment became, in reality, governor of the colony, for disease had swept off the council, so that there now remained only Ratcliff, Smith, and Martin. Ratcliff had been made president, in place of the former governor, who had been deposed; but so unpopular were both himself and his friend Martin, that the business of the colony fell mostly into the hands of Smith.

He now set himself to work to procure provisions for the colony and build comfortable dwellings. He caused the pinnace to be fitted up for a cruise, in order to obtain corn for the extravagant colonists. While this was in progress of completion, he visited the country lying on the Chickahominy. When he returned he found that Wingfield, the deposed presi-

dent, and his accomplice, Kendall, had laid a plot to carry off the pinnacle to England. So far had they perfected this plot, that Smith was compelled to open a fire on the pinnacle (by which Kendall was killed), in order to get possession of her. Having succeeded in retaking the pinnacle, he ascended the Chickahominy and procured an abundance of corn. Plenty being again restored, it was no longer thought necessary to abandon the colony and go to England.

Notwithstanding all this, the little-minded souls of the Jamestown colonists were dissatisfied with the acts of Smith; and murmured at him for not having discovered the head of the Chickahominy. He immediately started again: sailing up the river as far as possible he took a canoe and continued his voyage till the river became too much obstructed to admit the passage of a canoe. Landing, he left two men with the canoe, and took an Indian guide, with whom he set off for the head of the river. The natives captured a man who had gone ashore from the pinnacle and compelled him to tell where Smith had gone: they followed on, and coming upon the men left at the canoe, killed them and went in search of Smith.

They soon found him, but so valiantly did he fight, that they most likely would not have captured him had he been on solid ground. But he was not, and falling into a bog was made captive and conducted to their chief, Opechankanough, king of Pamunkee. Smith had in his pocket a small ivory compass, with which he so diverted the natives that his life was spared; though he was several times tied up to a tree to be killed. For six or seven weeks he was led about to be shown

to the native princes, and though he fared as well as could have been expected, he must have looked upon the morrow as full of uncertainty. At length he was brought before their emperor, Powhatan, who received him with all the pomp and state known at his rude court. A long council was held, and it was finally determined that Smith must die. "He was seized by a number of savages and his head laid upon two great stones, placed there for the purpose. His executioners had already raised their clubs to dash out his brains, and thus at once end his toil and difficulties, and cut off the only hope of the colony, when an advocate appeared, as unexpected as would have been the appearance of an angel sent immediately from heaven to ask his release. This was Pocahontas, the emperor's favorite daughter, who generously stepped forth and entreated, with tears, that Smith might be spared. And when she found this unavailing with the inexorable judges, she seized his head and placed it under her own, to protect it from the blows.

"This sight so moved Powhatan that he permitted Smith to live, intending to retain him to make trinkets for himself and family." He was, however, released a few days after and arrived at Jamestown just in time to prevent a party from running off with the pinnacle. The colony was now in a desperate condition, and was saved from destruction only by the kindness of the Indian queen, Pocahontas.

Newport returned to the colony with provisions, but which, unfortunately, were partly consumed by fire. Instead of hurrying back for supplies, he remained more than three

months in the colony, helping to consume the very provisions on which depended the existence of the colony. He had also brought over some gold refiners, who discovered a bank of shining sand near Jamestown, which they declared to be fine gold. Everything was now hubbub and confusion; Smith says "there was no talk, no hope, no work, but dig gold, wash gold, refine gold, load gold."

Newport loaded his vessel with the supposed precious metal and returned to England. But his cargo proved to be as valueless as other sand. The Phoenix, commanded by Nelson, had been driven off from the coast, loaded with provisions for the colony and had but now arrived. Most of the colonists were anxious to load her with a cargo of the shining sands but Smith, more prudent, caused her to be loaded with cedar—the first valuable cargo sent from Virginia to the mother country.

1608.] Smith accompanied the Phoenix as far as Cape Henry, in a small open barge, designing to explore the Chesapeake and its tributaries. [See Bancroft's Hist. U. S., Vol. I, p. 149.] When he returned to Jamestown, in September, he found the governor deposed and a horrible state of affairs existing. Smith was soon elected governor or president, and in a short time reduced matters to order. Newport returned again, and ascended the James river, thinking to find a passage to the Indies, though Powhatan had assured him that no sea would be found in that direction.

1609.] The affairs of the colony now wore a gloomy aspect, and Smith entreated the London Company to send out

mechanics and husbandmen to feed and house the colonists. Previous to this time the company, ignorant of the true wants of the colony, had expended much money to no purpose. In May, of this year, a new charter was granted, which greatly amended the miserable government which had been previously imposed upon the colony. The powers of the King were given to the company and those of the governor greatly increased. So that with Smith's energy, the colony began immediately to wear a more promising appearance.

Lord Delaware had been appointed governor for life under the new charter, but before he could enter upon the discharge of his duties some time would necessarily elapse; in consequence of which several persons were sent out as commissioners to superintend the affairs of the colony. The vessel in which they came over, was stranded on the Bermuda isles, and did not, for some time, reach Jamestown.

Smith, in the meantime, was working with his accustomed zeal for the promotion and prosperity of the colony, of which he may be justly called the father. He divided the colony, dispatching one party to form a settlement at the falls and another party to settle at Nansmond. This latter division failed to make a permanent settlement. West, who had been ordered to form a settlement at the falls, refused to occupy the town Powhatan, which had been purchased from the Indian emperor of that name, and settled himself on a marshy plain a little lower down the river. His disorderly conduct soon drew upon him the ferocity of the savages. Smith vainly remonstrated against such a course, till finally

he was compelled to return to Jamestown in consequence of a dreadful laceration of his flesh by the accidental explosion of his powder-flask. Seeing no hope of recovery in the colony, Smith proposed to start to England. Those who have made themselves acquainted with the character of this truly great man, find in it much to admire.

When Smith left the colony there were in it upward of four hundred and fifty persons, and abundant provisions. Yet in six months from the time of his departure, only sixty persons remained alive. Gates and Summers, who had been upon the isles of Bermuda for nearly ten months, constructed two small barques from the wrecks of their old vessels and sailed for Virginia. When they arrived, in place of finding the prosperous colony which Smith had left, they found only a few miserable beings praying for present support. Under these circumstances all hands were embarked and the two vessels set sail for England.

1610.] Before they reached the mouth of James river, however, they met Lord Delaware with three ships, having on board a number of new settlers and an ample stock of provisions—in fact, everything requisite either for defense or cultivation. Delaware finally prevailed on Gates and Summers, as well as the old colonists, to return to Jamestown.

1611.] Under the superior management of Delaware the colony began to look up again. In a short time Lord Delaware was compelled to go to England to recover from a complicated disease brought on by the climate.

The government was given to Mr. Percy: but wanting the

necessary tact the colony was again reduced to famine. Sir Thomas Dale succeeded Percy, and though the colony had become rather uninteresting, he succeeded in arousing the company to a sense of the importance of planting and fostering a colony in Virginia. In August, Gates was sent out with six ships and three hundred emigrants. Upon his arrival Dale surrendered to him the command of the colony, and with three hundred and fifty chosen men made a settlement on a neck of land nearly surrounded by the river, which he called Henrico.

1614.] Captain Aargall, sailing in the Potomac on a trading expedition, fell in with an old Indian chief to whom Powhatan had intrusted the guardianship of his favorite daughter Pocahontas. She was decoyed on board Aargall's vessel by the cunning of her guardian, who, for his infernal treachery, received a copper kettle. She was shortly after married to Mr. Rolfe, a highly respectable young gentleman of Jamestown. This marriage secured the friendship of Powhatan.

1616.] Gov. Dale, Gates, Mr. Rolfe and his bride sailed for England, leaving the colony in charge of Sir Thomas Yeardley.

1617.] Yeardley was succeeded by captain Aargall, whose conduct was so tyrannical that he was deposed, and Sir George Yeardley sent over in his place.

1619.] One of the first acts of Yeardley was to emancipate all the servants.

1620.] A new kind of slavery supplanted that which had



been suppressed by Yeardley. A Dutch ship landed and sold to the planters about twenty Africans, to be held in perpetual bondage. This is by far the most eventual epoch in Virginian, or even in American history.

1622.] Sir Francis Wyatt was now constituted governor of Virginia under a new charter. The English planters had extended themselves about one hundred and forty miles up and down the river, and were, in consequence, much exposed to the fury of the wily savages. Opechankanough, who had first captured Smith, designed a plot for the total extermination of the English, at a given day and hour. The plot was made known to a Mr. Pace, by a young Indian, whom he had educated. Mr. Pace started forthwith to Jamestown, to inform the governor what he had heard: Jamestown was immediately fortified, and thus saved from destruction; for on the following day (March 22d) the Indians fell on the planters, and killed three hundred and forty-seven men, women, and children. This was a bold and successful stroke, and greatly impeded the growth of the colony. A war was opened on the Pamunkees, which, however, did them but little injury.

1624.] The King of England had by this time become jealous of his colony, and was busily engaged in stirring up dissensions between the members of the company, wishing it to be dissolved and fall into his own hands. In less than a year his object was achieved.

1625.] The London Company having dissolved, and King James dying, Charles I ascended the throne. His neglect of

the colony gave it a chance to grow to some importance. Its rapid growth may be attributed to the tobacco trade, which had now greatly increased.

1626.] Sir Francis Wyatt, the governor, in consequence of the death of his father, went to England, and Sir George Yeardley was appointed in his place. In consequence of *his* death, the following year, Francis West was appointed governor; which office he vacated, in 1628, for John Pott, who was superseded by John Harvey, a governor commissioned by the king. A few years after he was deposed by the colony and sent home to answer charges of improper conduct.

1630-32.] Charles I offended the Virginians by granting to Sir Robert Heath a large portion of the lands of the colony, and afterward to Lord Baltimore.

1642.] Sir Francis Wyatt, who had governed the colony from the time Harvey was deposed, now yielded his place to Sir William Berkeley. Indian hostilities had raged from the time of the great massacre, and so continued till 1644.

1646-49.] A peace was concluded with the Indians; the affairs of the colony were prosperous, and the Virginians strongly attached to Charles. So that when he was executed, the Virginians did not hesitate to acknowledge his son as his proper successor. Charles II transmitted to the governor a new constitution, in token of his respect to them, though he was, at the time (1650), in exile.

1650-55.] The British Parliament sent out an armed force to compel the Virginians to renounce Charles II; but the attempt was futile. Berkeley had retired from office, and

Richard Bennett made governor. Having held it for a short time he retired, and the Assembly elected Edward Diggs governor. The next elected governor was Samuel Mathews, who died in 1660. Sir William Berkeley was again chosen. The Assembly of Virginia had now extended the principle of popular elections to the people. This was the first government in the world where universal suffrage was allowed.

1666.] The acts of the British Parliament were far from being satisfactory to the Virginians. The Governor had raised and disbanded an army; against which act the Virginians remonstrated, and petitioned the king for the raising of a new army. But, before this was ordered, Nathaniel Bacon was elected commander-in-chief of the Virginia forces. He immediately marched upon the Indians, though contrary to the orders of the governor. The governor, regarding Bacon as a rebel, marched after him: a rising at Jamestown, however, caused him to return, and bend his powers to the care of his capital and government. At the instance of the populace all the forts were leveled and dismantled, and the Assembly dissolved. Bacon, in the meantime, pushed his movements with such rapidity and success, against the Indians, that a stop was put to their depredations. Hearing of the revolt at Jamestown, Bacon left his little army and proceeded thither; a spy, who had been set for him by the governor, however, arrested him on his way. In consequence of his election to the Assembly from Henrico, during his absence, he was pardoned. Finding it impossible to gain redress for the wrongs perpetrated on the people of Henrico,

he raised a company in the county, and surrounded the State-house; his soldiers demanded a commission for him, which was eventually granted. Bacon could now act with safety. He had not left Jamestown a great while before the governor dissolved the assembly, repaired to Gloucester, and declared Bacon a rebel, and his army traitors; and raising the standard of opposition, prepared to oppose him. Bacon, in turn, declared that Berkeley had abdicated the government, and called a convention which met at Middle Plantation in 1676.

1676.] By the members of this convention, Bacon was made commander-in-chief of the colony. He was not, however, allowed to enjoy this office a great while; for the governor soon returned to Jamestown, and prepared to defend it. Bacon, ever active, soon besieged it, and compelled the governor to fly on board a vessel during the night. The town was burnt the following day; the governor went to Accomac, and Bacon disbanded his army. The death of Bacon brought about a reconciliation, and Berkeley again came into power. He now commenced a system of high-handed outrage, disgraceful to the glory of his former years. The king sent over Sir Herbert Jeffries to supersede him.

1678.] Jeffries died, and the affairs of government were placed in the hands of Lieutenant-governor Sir Henry Chicklerley, who yielded the same up to Lord Culpepper the following spring.

1685-89.] The accession of James II was a cause of joy to the colonists. But before the benignity of his influence could be felt, Lord Howard (then governor), had wrought

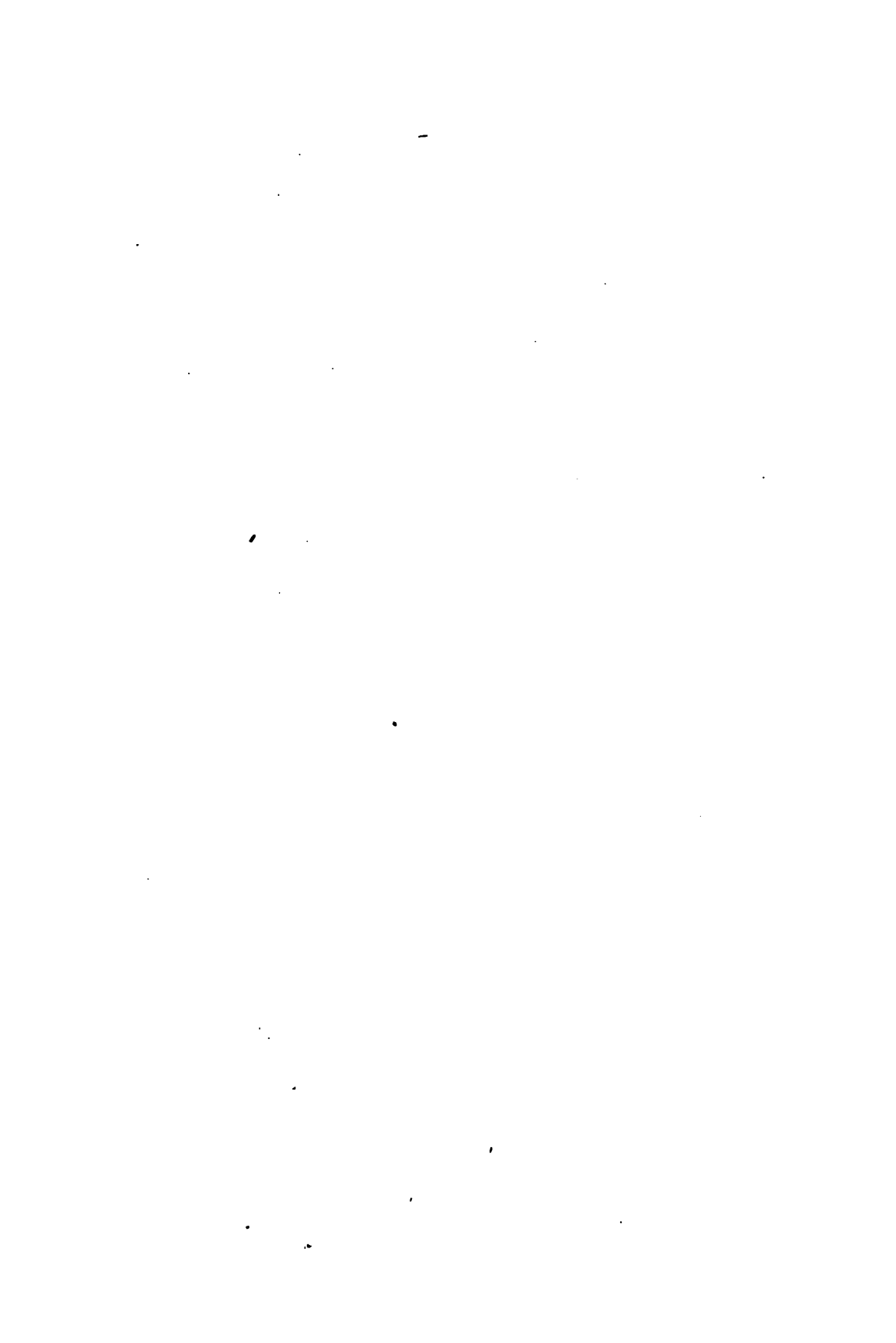
the feelings of the Virginians up to the highest pitch of excitement. The consequence was a wrangle between the people and the governor. While this was progressing, James II was dethroned, and William and Mary ascended in his stead. A war soon broke out that involved the colonies, and did not cease to affect them till 1705. There were various persons in power during this time, but as nothing of importance took place, I pass to the period when Governor Spotswood assumed the reigns of government.

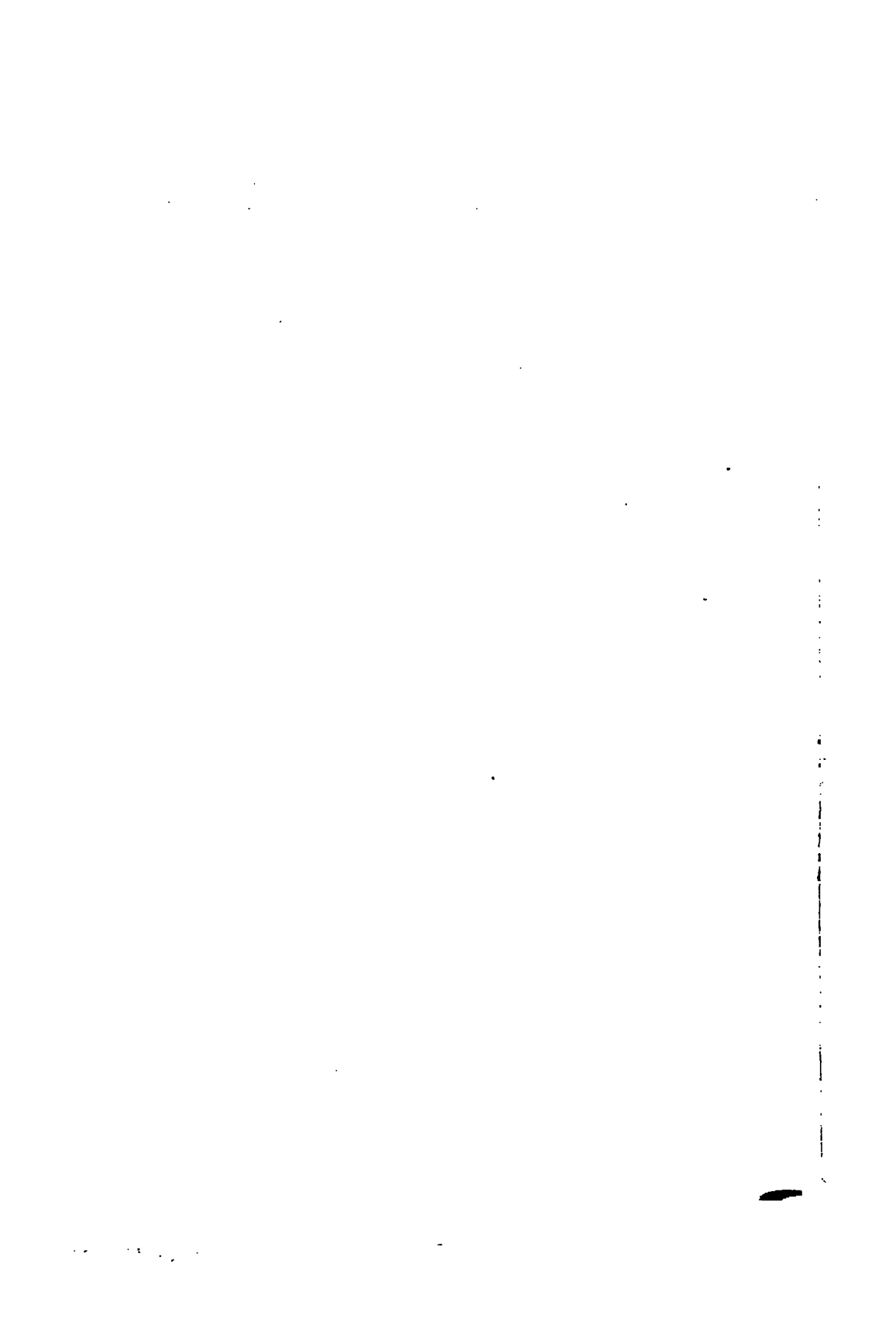
1710.] The administration of Spotswood was of a character to gain for him the greatest popularity among the Virginians. At the head of a body of horse he crossed the Blue-Ridge mountains, hitherto thought impracticable. For this feat he was created knight, by the king, who also presented him with a miniature golden horse-shoe, on which was inscribed, *Sic jurat transcendens montes*. Spotswood was succeeded by Drysdale in 1723, but was again chosen in 1729. In 1734, Drysdale was again elected, but was succeeded by Gooch in 1737.

1752.] Governor Dinwiddie was sent over in place of Gooch, who had gone to England. Gooch's reign (if such I may term it), was a long and prosperous one. Since 1710, when Spotswood crossed the mountains, the colony had greatly extended itself. Augusta county was already conspicuous. Many settlers were to be seen wending their way westward; and, as it is my place to follow them, I here take leave of the general history of Virginia, referring the reader to Bancroft's history of the United States for particulars.

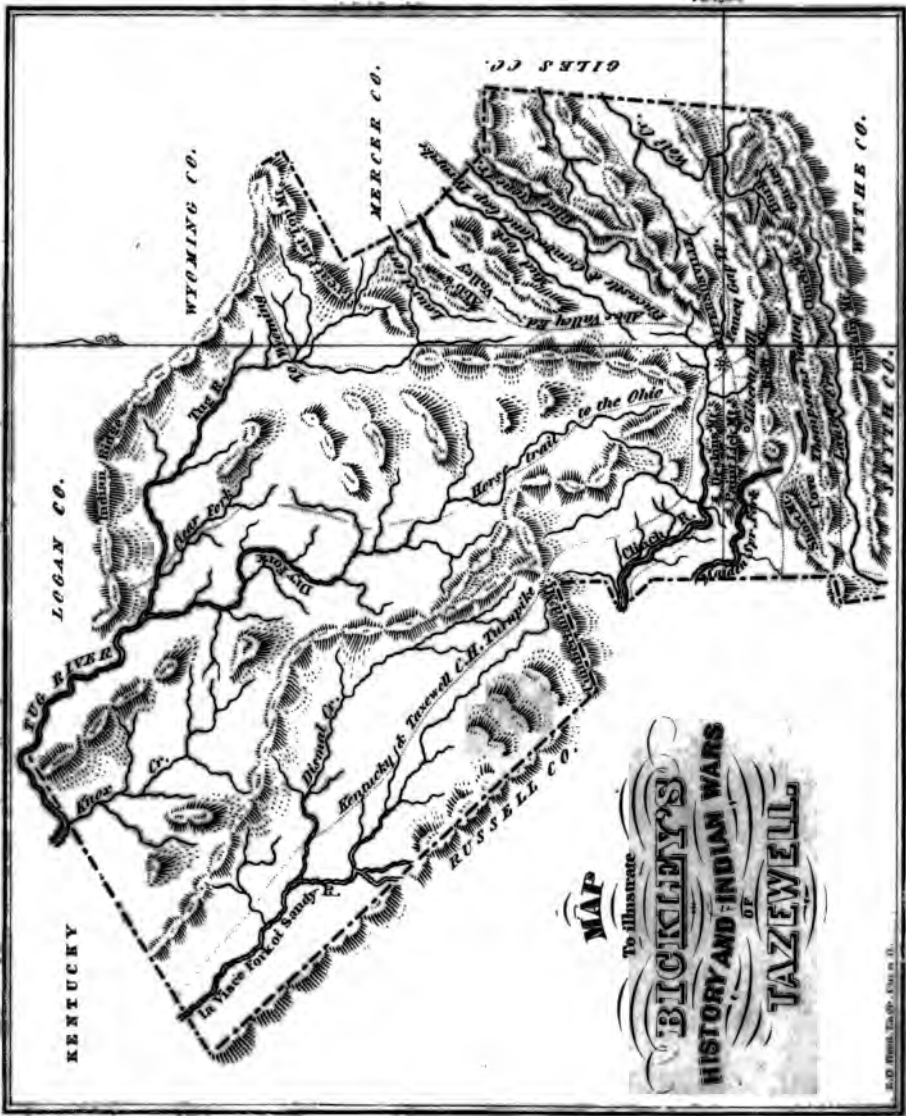
**B O O K I I .**

**HISTORY OF TAZEVELL COUNTY.**









4° 30' W. from Washington

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF TAZEVELL.

THE local nature of this work precludes the necessity of entering into a lengthy introduction, yet a few remarks seem to be essential, to make the reader somewhat acquainted with the nature of the subject before him.

For many years, the county of Tazewell has enjoyed a very high reputation in Virginia and the surrounding states. Located in what was not many years ago the wilds of Virginia, immediately in the line of the great Indian road from the Ohio to the western settlements, we might reasonably calculate that many daring deeds and bloody massacres took place within its borders. And such seems to have been the case, for, perhaps none of the western counties afford such a number of either, as Tazewell.

The lands of the county are open and inviting to the emigrant, and it is essential only, that he should have a correct knowledge of the county, its history and its resources, to convince him that he will nowhere find a more desirable country than this. The people of the county themselves, need a spur to urge them on to greater exertion. The rapid growth of the county and its wealth show that it will compare with any in the state. To those who would spend a summer in the mountains, a more pleasant retreat from the cares and

turmoils of business, could not be found. To the valetudinarian, the pure air, the fine scenery, the mineral water, the good society, all are inviting. To the capitalist the county opens a wide field of operations. Occupying a central position in the south-west, it may be looked upon as an average specimen of the surrounding country. The county has thus far made but a small figure; the south-west has been overlooked; to advocate the claims of the latter and to perpetuate the history of the former, as well as to set the car of improvement in motion, is one of the objects of this work. The day is not far distant when Tazewell will be an important county; a slight glance at the maps of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina will be sufficient to convince the most superficial, that in the course of things, a new state, at no very distant day, must be hewed out of the corners of the above states. If we but look at the staple productions, the character of the soil, the distance of market, the sameness of facilities, the climate and character of the population, the distance from the seats of government, and the oneness of interest, we cannot fail to see that the formation of a new state would redound to the interest of the people of the specified district.

It may be said that this new state would be cut off from any navigable stream as much as Switzerland in Europe. But, when we consider, in this age of "velocity," navigable streams have, and are daily becoming subservient to the speed and utility of the metal horse, whose dreadful stamp and wild scream is spreading life and energy in the veins of the honest

yeomanry of the land, we shall all agree that this objection would not be valid.

I would ask, what advantages are now accruing to the people of the specified section from navigable streams? Do they not roll back upon us, daily, a tide of losses, by bringing us in competition with those who have their every advantage? Have the people of south-western Virginia, eastern Kentucky and Tennessee, and north-western North Carolina, ever been on a footing with others of their respective states?

Will their respective legislatures vote money to carry on internal improvements in these remote corners, so as to bring them on a footing with their more favored statesmen? Have they enabled them to sell their corn, wheat, tobacco and stock on as good terms as those nearer market? Have the states named, tried to put the "corner men" within thirty miles of market, as they might? No, we must travel thirty days with our stock, grain etc., to market, which, when there, nets little more than half that received by our more favored brethren.

No country can equal ours, and why be poorer than the poorest? Let us urge upon our respective states the importance of placing us on an equal footing with others, or ask leave to help ourselves, by making us a separate and distinct commonwealth. Let us do this, and show the world that here is the garden-spot.

Too little has been said, by writers of Virginia history, upon south-western Virginia. Several works have been written purporting to be histories of Virginia, Kentucky,

Tennessee and North Carolina, and all neglect their mountainous sections. The last works I have seen upon Virginia, are those of Howe and De Hass. Neither of these, do that justice to the south-west, which it so justly merits. The character of Mr. Howe's work precluded the possibility of saying much of any section. But, De Hass's work purports to be a "*History of the Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia.*" If he had called it a history of the settlement and Indian wars of *North-western* Virginia, he would certainly have been quite as near the thing. It is most undoubtedly a history of north-western Virginia, and as such is an honor to its author.

To write a history of Virginia which should do justice to every section, would be a task greater than could be performed by any one man; for, to use the words of one well versed in Virginia history "the half will never be told."

Local history is rather a new feature in literature, and must be written for the people of its locality. I write the history of a county and for the people of that county. After the history of every county shall be written, a condensed work of the whole will be called a History of the South-west.

## CHAPTER II.

## DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT.

1766.] It has been with much difficulty that I have been able to collect anything of importance, relating to this section, at the date indicated in the margin. Perhaps there is really little to record. What little I have gleaned from the obscured pages of the book of the past, has now become little more than mere tradition. For, situated as I am, in an isolated region, the advantages of a public library are denied me, and from a large private library little is to be found, throwing any light on this uncertain part of my work. The information here embodied, was received from the grandsons, sons, and even from the men themselves who were the principal actors in the drama to be recorded. Memory cannot survive the decay of the physical system, unimpaired; and hence, caution is necessary, in recording an event told us, even by the chief actors therein. With this fact before me, I have placed more reliance on an incident related to me by a son of a pioneer, than if related by the pioneer himself.

Whether the discoverers were allured to this section, by the exaggerated tale of some friendly Indians; the hope of finding some valuable mineral, with which to enrich themselves; or to find a region more abundantly stocked with game, from the peltry of which they would derive a profit, cannot now be easily determined. It is most likely that the latter supposition is the true cause; for, it is certain, that at the date

indicated, hunting was considered a manly exercise, and one of which Virginians have ever been fond. They would brave every danger to enjoy the sport. Amusement was here combined with labor and profit; and hence, the hardy backwoodsman of Augusta frequently left home and all its endearments, and took upon himself the toil and fatigue, as well as the pleasures, of a trapper's life. The "trapper life" here led, differed, in many respects, from that followed by the north-western trapper, or *courceurs de bois*, who married among the Indians, assumed their dress, and remained out on an expedition, one, two, and even three or four years; while the backwoodsman returned regularly to his family, at the end of a few months, perhaps poorer, but equally as happy as the *courceurs de bois* or rangers of the wood.

The hunters usually went to the mountains in companies of eight or ten, having pack-horses, with which they brought home their peltry. The equipment, for a trip of this kind, consisted of a rifle, powder, ball, a hatchet or tomahawk, knife, and blanket. They also carried salt and provisions enough to last them two days or beyond the settlement, from which time the forest yielded a plentiful supply. Tobacco, and a clean shirt a-piece, generally made up the remainder of their stores, which was to serve them for months in the western wilds. Their dress was usually of heavy woolen, and the manufacture of their wives and daughters. The suit worn off had to last till their return; for, except the spare shirt, they carried but one suit. Heavy buckskin moccasins and leggins were usually worn, with a hunting shirt, and a

cap made of beaver or otter-skin. The hatchet was worn in a belt around the body, while the hunting-knife was lodged in a sheath fastened to the strap of the shot-pouch. I know of no more formidable personage than a backwoodsman in full dress; especially if you reflect upon the precision with which he deals the missiles of death, from his long black rifle, and his great power to endure the fatigue and hardships incident to a hunter's life.

Once upon the route, thus equipped and prepared, none were so happy or so free from the cares and vexations of civic life, as the Augusta backwoodsman, to whose homes even Washington, in after years, expected to be compelled to fly, to nourish and defend the last faint spark of republican liberty.

Pasturage for their horses was to be found everywhere; and, game in such abundance, that plenty and good cheer were their companions from the time they left their homes, till their return. After having reached the game region, and were seated around the camp-fire, at night, their thoughts might revert from the incidents of the day and the anticipation of the morrow's scenes, and kindly hover over those left behind; but, if so, such thoughts invariably brought forth the soliloquizing ejaculation, "*Well now, if I had the old woman and babies here I should be fixed!*"

It will be recollected that, previous to this time, the French had mingled with the Indians, and given countenance to their acts, till the close of the war between France and England, in February, 1763. This peace did not, however,



terminate the Indian war against the colonies. They were displeased with the provisions of the treaty, and commenced a war of merciless extermination against the western frontier settlements, which was waged till December, 1764, when it was brought to a close by what is usually known as Johnston's treaty.

The Shawanoes, who lived on the Wabash, Scioto, and Ohio rivers, soon after the completion of Johnston's treaty, became engaged in a war with the Cherokees, who lived in the upper parts of Alabama, Georgia, and the western part of North Carolina, and continued it till 1768, when the southern Indians, who were being pressed by the Shawanoes and Delawares, sued for, and obtained a peace, which restored quiet to the frontiers, till April, 1774.

The reader will bear in mind that this war, between the Shawanoes and Cherokees, was waging at the time of which we are writing (1766), and that the country, of which Tazewell now forms a part, lay between the contending nations, so that the hunter was in danger of falling into the hands of the predatory bands of either tribe. There was, however, little danger, for each nation was anxious to secure the sympathy of the whites. A few loads of powder were sufficient to have ransomed a man. But it appears that no company was molested, who were hunting within the present limits of Tazewell.

The first of these hunting companies visited this part of the Clinch valley in 1766: of their acts nothing is known. In the following year another company came out, in which

were two men, named Butler and Carr. They were, also, in the first company.

1767.] When this second company was ready to start back, Butler and Carr concluded to stay and wait the arrival of a company expected out that fall. They built a small cabin, at a place now known as the Crab orchard, about three miles west of the present seat of justice. During the spring they opened a small field, and planted some corn, which they received from a band of Cherokees. In the fall, the expected company of hunters arrived, and were joined by Butler and Carr, who had, by this time, acquired a correct knowledge of the geographical features of the country. They hunted till spring, leaving Butler and Carr to spend another summer in the mountains. Having received, from the last company, a supply of ammunition, etc., they became settled in their resolution to make the wild backwoods their home, and, accordingly, began to improve around their camp, and open lands, on which to raise bread.

1768.] Early in the summer, about two hundred Cherokee warriors camped near them, to spend the summer and kill elk, which frequented a lick near, and on the present plantation of, Mr. Thomas Witten. These were, however, soon disturbed by the appearance of several hundred Shawanoes; men and women. The Shawanoes and Cherokees had long been deadly enemies, and it was not to be supposed that they could camp near each other, and hunt at the same lick, without a battle.

The Shawanoes, as a people, are overbearing: and they were

not long in exhibiting this feature of their character. The Shawanoe chief sent a peremptory order to the Cherokees, to evacuate their position and seek a new hunting-ground. This was early in the day. The messenger was sent back to defy the Shawanoes, who soon began to prepare for battle.

The Cherokees retired to the top of Rich mountain and threw up a breastwork, which was finished before night. It consisted of a simple embankment, about three or four feet high, running east and west along the top of the mountain about eighty yards, and then turning off at right angles to the north or down the mountain side. The Shawanoes commenced the ascent of the mountain before night of the first day, but finding their enemies so strongly fortified, withdrew and posted themselves in a position to commence the attack early the following morning.

Long before day the fiendish yells of the warriors might be heard echoing over the rugged cliffs and deep valleys of the surrounding country. Day came, and for the space of half an hour, a deathlike stillness reigned on the mountain top and side. With the first rays of the rising sun, a shout ascended the skies as if all the wild animals in the woods had broke forth in their most terrifying notes. The sharp crack of rifles and the ringing of tomahawks against each other; the screams of women and children and the groans of the dying now filled the air for miles around.

Both parties were well armed and the contest nearly equal. The Shawanoes having most men, while the Cherokees had the advantage of their breastwork. Through the long day

the battle raged with unabated vigor, and when night closed in, both parties built fires and camped on the ground. During the night the Cherokees sent to Butler and Carr for powder and lead, which they furnished. When the sun rose the following morning the battle was renewed with the same spirit in which it had been fought the previous day. In a few hours, however, the Shawanoes were compelled to retire. The loss on both sides was great, considering the numbers engaged. A large pit was opened and a common grave received those who had fallen in this last battle fought between red men in this section. Both parties left Virginia for their homes in the south and west, leaving Butler and Carr in possession of the Elk lick, which was the cause of dispute. My informant had this account from Carr, an eye-witness. The battle-ground, breastwork, and great grave are yet to be seen.

1769.] Carr separated from Butler and settled on a beautiful spot on one of the head branches of the Clinch river, two miles east of the present town of Jeffersonville. Peace being restored among the Indians, more hunters came out, who returned laden with peltries and giving such glowing descriptions of the country (which still perhaps failed to come up to its true description) that the desire to emigrate began to exhibit itself among the substantial men of worth.

1771.] In the spring of this year Thomas Witten and John Greenup moved out and settled at the Crab orchard, which Witten purchased of Butler. Absalom Looney settled in a beautiful valley now known as Abb's valley. Matthias Har-

man, and his brothers Jacob and Henry settled at Carr's place. John Craven settled in the Cove (see Map), Joseph Martin, John Henry, and James King settled in the Thompson valley, and John Bradshaw in the valley two miles west of Jeffersonville. The settlers, this year, found but little annoyance from the Indians, who were living peaceably at their homes in the west and south. The consequence was the settlers erected substantial houses and opened lands to put in corn, from which they reaped a plentiful supply, in the fall.

1772.] The following persons moved out, this year, and settled at the several places named. Capt. James Moore and John Pogue, in Abb's valley; William Wynn, at the Locust hill (the place that Carr settled), which he purchased from Harman. John Taylor, on the north fork of Clinch, and Jesse Evans, near him. Thomas Maxwell, Benjamin Joslin, James Ogleton, Peter and Jacob Harman, and Samuel Furguson, on Bluestone creek. William Butler,\* on the south branch of the north fork of Clinch, a short distance above Wynn's plantation; William Webb, about three miles east of Jeffersonville; Elisha Clary, near Butler; John Ridgel, on the clear fork of Wolf creek; Rees Bowen, at Maiden spring; David Ward, in the Cove, and William Garrison, at the foot of Morris's knob.

1773.] Thomas, John, and William Peery, settled where the town of Jeffersonville now stands; John Peery, jr., at the

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\* Perhaps the same from whom Thomas Witten purchased the Crab orchard, and the first settler.

fork of Clinch, one mile and a half east of the county seat; Capt. Maffit, and Benjamin Thomas, settled about a mile above, and Chrisly Hensly, near them. Samuel Marrs settled in Thompson's valley; Thomas English, in Burk's garden (see description and remarks); James and Charles Scaggs, Richard Pemberton, and Johnson, settled in Baptist valley, five miles from where Jeffersonville now stands. Thomas Maston, William Patterson, and John Deskins, settled in the same valley, but farther west—Hines, Richard Oney, and Obadiah Paine, settled in Deskins valley, in the western part of the county.

1774-76.] The settlers who came in during the years of '74-5 and '6, generally pitched their tents near the one or other of the localities already mentioned. Even yet there is a preference manifested for the older settlements. This may be accounted for, from the fact that the first settlers generally chose the most desirable localities; the lands being now better improved, and society more advanced, still render these places more attractive than other parts of the county settled at a later period.

Cresop's war, as it is sometimes, though perhaps erroneously, called, broke out in 1774, which drove the settlers into neighborhoods where they might have the advantages of blockhouses, forts, and stations. The Revolution was soon resolved upon, and the frontiersmen, having to combat the Indians, who had become allies to the British, were much from home. This tended, also, to draw still closer the families then settled in the county. Whatever contributed to the safety of one, conferred a like boon upon the rest. In speaking

of the Indian wars, we shall see the utility of general rendezvous for families.

Our market at this time was in eastern Virginia, or the old settlements, and by the continued passage of the traders, a line of communication was kept open, over which was transmitted, with some dispatch, news of what was transpiring in the east. Even before the battle of Lexington, the subject of revolution had been talked over by the frontiersmen, and we shall see, hereafter, how they conducted themselves during the war. After the declaration of war, emigration slackened, though a few, who either sympathized with the mother country, or felt no interest in the contest, moved out. Having now given such an outline of the settlement as will enable the reader to know the position in which the people were placed, during the first few years of the settlement, I shall proceed to a period somewhat later, that he may have an idea of the formation and outline geography of the county.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### FORMATION, AND OUTLINE GEOGRAPHY.

By an act, passed December 19th, 1799, the county of Tazewell was formed of parts of Wythe and Russell. The following are the boundary lines: "Beginning on the Kanawha line, and running with the line which divides Montgomery and Wythe counties, to where said line crosses the top of the Brashy mountain; thence along the top of the

said mountain to its junction with Garden mountain; thence along the top of the said mountain to the Church (perhaps Clinch) mountain; thence along the top of said mountain to the top of Cove creek, a branch of the Maiden-spring fork of Clinch river; thence a straight line to Mann's gap, in Kent's ridge; thence north  $45^{\circ}$  west, to the line which divides the state of Kentucky from that of Virginia; thence along said line to the Kanawha line, and with said line to the place of beginning."\*

By an act of the Virginia legislature, passed February 3d, 1835, the line which had hitherto divided Russell and Tazewell counties was altered from Mann's gap, in Kent's ridge, so as to run north  $45^{\circ} 45'$  west, to the distance of 974 poles. Which portion was afterward ceded to Tazewell. An act of the General Assembly, passed February 4th, 1838, altered the eastern boundary line, in consequence of the formation of the county of Giles; and, again, in 1837, in consequence of the formation of the county of Mercer; which, however, owing to an omission in the act of Assembly, was not defined till April, 1848.

The subjoined Map exhibits the lines as they now stand; which, owing to a want of facilities, is not offered as being in every respect correct, but near enough to convey a good general idea of the shape and geographical features of the county.

Tazewell county was named, not in honor of Littleton W. Tazewell, as is generally supposed, but received its name

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\* Virginia Statutes, from 1792 to 1806; Vol. II, chap. 27, sec. 1, page 217.



somewhat in the following manner. Simon Cotterel, who was the representative from Russell in 1799, having been authorized to apply for the formation of a new county, drew up a bill, and proposed it on the 18th of December, 1799, but met with the most violent opposition from Mr. Tazewell, a member from Norfolk county, and a relative of L. W. Tazewell then in Congress. Cotterel rose in his seat, and begged the gentleman to withhold his remarks till his bill was matured, to which he assented. Cotterel erased the proposed name and inserted that of Tazewell, and the next day (19th), presented his bill thus amended. Tazewell was silenced; the bill passed, receiving Tazewell's vote. To this stratagem the county is indebted for its name.

The county is bounded on the north by the State of Kentucky, Logan and Wyoming counties, Virginia; on the east by Mercer and Giles; on the south by Wythe and Smyth, and on the west by Russell. It has a superficial area of about 1,920,000 square acres, or 3000 square miles, and is traversed by numerous ranges of the Alleghany and Cumberland mountains. Clinch, one of the principal mountains, passes through it in an easterly and westerly direction, about forty miles. This mountain was named, as will be seen in the chapter on mountains, in consequence of the Clinch river. Rich mountain passes through the county about twenty miles; it is a branch of the Clinch. Garden and Brushy mountains are in the southern part of the county, the latter being the county line; they run parallel with Clinch mountain. Paint Lick and Deskin's mountains are also parallel and north of

the Rich mountain. They are parts of the same range with East river and Elk-horn, being separated by the Clinch river, in the valley in which stands the town of Jeffersonville. There are no other mountains deserving of notice, at this place, except the Great Flat Top, in the north-east corner of the county.

The county is traversed by many streams; some of considerable size; the principal of which are Clinch river, Bluestone, La Visee, Dry, and Tug forks of Sandy river and their branches. The Clinch river rises from three springs; the first on the "divides," about ten miles east of the town of Jeffersonville; the second in the valley between Elk-horn and Rich mountains; the third in Thompson's valley, about eight miles south-east of the county seat. The two first unite about one and a half miles east of Jeffersonville, and flow, in a westerly direction, about twenty-five miles, and unite with the Maiden-spring fork, and thence flow through Russell, Scott, Lee, and a part of Tennessee, and, after receiving the Powell river, empty into the Tennessee about sixty miles above Kingston.

Bluestone creek rises in the eastern part of the county; flows in a north easterly direction, and empties into the Great Kanawha. The different branches (see Map) of the Sandy river, rising in this county, flow in a northerly direction and empty into the Ohio. The county is well watered. The climate and soil are treated of, in other places, under appropriate heads (which see); as also, the manners, customs, etc. Jeffersonville is the county seat.

## CHAPTER IV.

## CLIMATE.

## WINTER IN TAZEWELL.

OWING to its elevation, the climate, in winter, is more severe than in the surrounding counties. Snow appears generally before the commencement of the first winter month. The inhabitants, at this season, are much exposed in feeding and caring for their stock. Ice is seldom seen over six inches thick, and attains that thickness only a few times in the course of the winter. Less snow falls than would be supposed, from the latitude and elevation of the country. It lies but a short time, and is generally succeeded by rain, which is plentiful at this season. The water-courses are usually high during the winter, though seldom impassable, except for a short time immediately after long rainy spells. The reflection of light from the mountains, when covered with snow, renders a sunny day remarkably light: and to this circumstance is owing the absence of that gloomy appearance so often seen in level countries during the winter; except, indeed, when snow is falling, at which time the mountains are obscured and a death-like shadow is cast over everything. During the winter season the country presents a business air to be seen at few other seasons of the year. This is owing to the return of the drovers, who supply the people with the almighty dollar, the influence of which is felt everywhere.

Its plentiful presence seems to instil life, energy, and action into those ordinarily lethargic and idle. Contracts, based upon the credit system, are now discharged and pledged faith redeemed.

During the middle of winter comes Christmas, with all its joys and pleasures. It is here celebrated as in England four hundred years ago. The young people commence the dance, which is kept up for several weeks. The figures are mostly the variety of reels. The violin, triangle, and tambourine, constitute the band.

Dancing is an amusement greatly loved by the people of Tazewell and in which they excel. The intimacy and good cheer existing at these gatherings (in which even the older people sometimes participate), will doubtless account for the general good feeling which exists among the people of the county, and which is proverbial.

The new year steals in amid all their hilarity, and is welcomed with hearty good-will. The end of winter puts a stop to all these amusements, and the people return to the plow, the loom, and the anvil.

#### SPRING.

Spring, which succeeds the cold and amusements, is the most beautiful season imaginable. At the earliest dawn of spring, the sap begins to flow in the sugar-maple (*Acer saccharinum*), and then begins the process of sugar-making. This is effected by boring auger holes in the body of the tree, and introducing part of an alder stalk, or something of the kind, to

serve as a conductor for the sap, which falls in a trough, and is conveyed in pails thence to the kettles, where it is boiled into sugar. The water is evaporated while the saccharine principle remains. It is a dark, compact sugar, which might be improved by slightly altering the mode of manufacture.

The following remarks are taken from a work published by the American Tract Society: "The sugar maple is a beautiful tree, reaching the height of seventy or eighty feet, the body straight, for a long distance free from limbs, and three or four feet in diameter at the base. It grows in colder climates, between latitudes 42 and 48, and on the Alleghanies to their southern termination, extending westward beyond lake Superior. The wood is nearly equal to hickory, for fuel, and is used for building, for ships, and various manufactures. When tapped, as the winter gives place to spring, a tree, in a few weeks, will produce five or six pailsful of sap, which is sweet and pleasant as a drink, and when boiled down will make about half as many pounds of sugar. The manufacturer, selecting a spot central among his trees, erects a temporary shelter, suspends his kettles over a smart fire, and at the close of a day or two will have fifty or a hundred pounds of sugar, which is equal to the common west India sugar, and when refined equals the finest in flavor and beauty.

"When the sap has been boiled to a sirup and is turning to molasses, then to candy, and then graining into sugar, its flavor is delightful, especially when the candy is cooled on the snow. On this occasion the manufacturer expects his wife, children, and friends, if near, to enjoy the scene." The



THE SUGAR CAMP.



person in the engraving on page 65, is represented as blowing the candy or wax, to ascertain how far the boiling has advanced. 41,341 pounds are annually manufactured in Tazewell county.

When the sugar-making season is over, spring has fairly begun; though few trees exhibit full grown leaves, those of the maple and buckeye, or horse-chesnut (*Æsculus glabra*), being earliest. The soft green foliage of these trees, the few spring flowers, the verdant meadows, the sweet warbling of forest birds, and general activity of the animal kingdom, make this the paradisiac era of the year. By the first of June, nothing can exceed the beauty of this mountain region; the hill sides are variegated with a profusion of flowers; sweet odors stimulate the olfactories at the inhalation of every breath, and these

"Pleasant breezes, and alight showers,  
And the sweet odor of flowers,"

produce a carelessness, and happy contentedness, known to few other than oriental lands.

#### SUMMER.

This does not differ much, in appearance, from spring; yet materially in its effects. The grains are now nearly ready for harvesting, except corn, which is not gathered till fall. The summers are warm for a country so elevated, yet not so warm as the surrounding counties: there is, too, less rain at this season. But little traveling is done, and business dull; the farmers being closely engaged at home. About the



fourth of July harvest begins, and continues several weeks. This ended, the farmers begin to gather their cattle for the drovers, who carry from the county, annually, about 7,000 head, starting usually in the latter part of August and beginning of September. At times, the roads may be seen lined with cattle for miles, many of them passing through the county, from Kentucky and Tennessee, on their way to the eastern markets. The labors of the farm slacken till frost appears.

## AUTUMN.

Fall is remarkable for the great beauty of the decaying foliage. Numerous plants are now in full bloom, and with the varied colors of the forest, present a sight of loveliness rarely seen. The nights become cooler, till fire is required, and soon in the month of October frost appears. Snow sometimes falls in this month, but most generally, not till November.

Soon after the appearance of frost, in October, the *Indian summer* sets in—a season as beautiful as its name. The air is pleasant, and a smoky haze fills the atmosphere.

This season, of all others, would be preferred for a perpetual climate. It lasts from ten days to three weeks. Many beautiful Indian love-tales are connected with this season, but are better suited to the pages of a magazine than this place. The seasons of Tazewell are objectionable only for one thing, viz: sudden changes, as mentioned under the head of Meteorology.

## CHAPTER V.

## M E T E O R O L O G Y .

IMPORTANT as this subject is to the farmer, little attention has been paid to it. Few, I am persuaded, have appreciated its importance: and until our farmers avail themselves of the important laws, and consequent deductions which it has brought to light, we need not expect to see our lands producing their proportionate amount of sustenance.

*Meteorology*, is the scientific designation of that science which treats of the atmosphere, and its varied phenomena. It is an essential part of a farmer's education, and without a knowledge of its principles, he must act upon the rude systems which have been conjured up by the wild superstitions of his fathers, in whose maxims he sees all science.

The every-day experience of any farmer will satisfy him that light, heat, air, temperature, etc., play an important part in the vegetable, as well as in the animal worlds.\*

The following remarks are based upon the observations of two winters and a summer. I have, also, availed myself of some of the current opinions which exist among the more learned farmers of the county. From the nature of the country—mountainous and much elevated, as mentioned in another place—almost every variety of climate, from 36° to 50° N. latitude, is to be found in certain localities of the

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\* The importance of this subject, is set forth by Daniel Lee, M. D. See Report of Commissioner of Patents—part II, 1849; art. Agricultural Meteorology.

county. The climate of Quebec and Charleston alike exist; the former on the mountain-peaks, and the latter in the deepest valleys. Owing to this fact it is difficult to give correct meteorological information, unless observations had been made at different places.

I give the result at Jeffersonville, as being probably near the mean of the county.

The mean temperature for the Winter months is 30° Fahr.

"	"	"	"	Spring	"	52	"
"	"	"	"	Summer	"	73	"
"	"	"	"	Fall	"	61	"

The fall of rain in the Winter months, is 27½ inch.

"	"	"	"	Spring	"	16½	"
"	"	"	"	Summer	"	8½	"
"	"	"	"	Fall	"	6½	"

Thus we have 54° as the mean temperature, and 58½ inches of rain, during the year; which gives to each season 14½ inches, and to each day 0.1599 inches, or about ¼ of an inch.

Snow falls in the valleys from the first of November to the first of April, and on the mountain tops, a little sooner and later. Its early fall, in autumn, destroys large quantities of timber, the leaves of which catch the snow till the weight becomes insupportable. The branches, and sometimes the body, giving way, fill the roads with fragments, rendering them impassable.

The winds vary very much, with the direction of the valleys, and it is often difficult to determine their real course;

every valley seeming to draw a current through it. West, N. W. and east winds, prevail; though southerly winds sometimes blow for a short time. Northerly winds usually produce fair weather, while Easterly winds bring rain. Much rain is required for the soil, hence, vegetation shoots with the greatest rapidity during the wet season of spring.

The general temperature seems to be higher than it formerly was, there being less snow, and ice, during the winters, as well as less rain, than during the first years of settlement. This, no doubt, is owing to the loss of timber on the cleared lands; it is the only way in which we can account for this change of climate. This explanation has the sanction of Baron Von Humboldt (see his *Cosmos*), ~~than~~ whom no man was a better judge, or closer observer of this department of nature.

The dry season, in the beginning of summer, sometimes does much mischief, not only to vegetation, but to man's health. The effects of light upon the soil, are nowhere more perceptible than here. The number of rays of light, falling at right angles on the south sides of the mountains during a greater part of the year, seems to have quite exhausted the soil, especially near the summits. On the north sides of the mountains, even from the tops, the soil is of the finest quality, and very productive. From this we should conclude, that to preserve and foster the productive energy of the soil, it requires shading. Changes of temperature are very sudden, the thermometer sometimes sinking rapidly from 70° to 20° Fahr., remaining so a few hours, and then

rising as rapidly again, to 60° or 70°. This irregularity constitutes an objection to the climate, which, it is to be hoped, will be removed when the lands are entirely cleared up.

It is certainly a great pity, that meteorological investigations have not been instituted in this country; and it is still more unfortunate, that the farming community should have paid so little attention to a subject which so seriously affects their dearest interests.

“If a small portion of the talent and public patronage of this country could be turned to the study of vegetable and animal physiology, in their connection with farm economy, and to chemistry, entomology, agricultural geology, and meteorology, unquestionably, the average of our wheat, corn, and cotton crops, would soon be doubled.”\*

The farmers of this region have long believed that a plain English education, i. e., to read, write, and cipher, was all sufficient for a farmer, and hence science has been discarded as useless. The truth is, we need a scientific farmer's school, founded upon Socrates' idea of useful knowledge—to teach that, which would admit of application. We have too many schools where the mere theory of life and its means are taught.

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\* Lee—Patent Office Report, Part II, 1849.

## CHAPTER VI.

## DESCRIPTIVE GEOGRAPHY.

## MOUNTAINS.

THE principal mountains of Tazewell are Clinch, Rich, East River, Brushy, Garden, Paint Lick, Deskins, and Flat Top. They have an elevation, above the valleys, of about eighteen hundred feet, and about three thousand above the level of the sea. For remarks upon their geological formation I would refer the reader to the Transactions of the Jeffersonville Historical Society. The general course of these mountains is N. 67° E.

*Clinch mountain*, which receives its name from Clinch river, extends through the entire length of the county. It has several gaps, through which wagon-roads pass.

*Rich mountain*, so called from the character of its soil, is a branch or spur of Clinch mountain, running parallel to it its entire length.

*East River mountain*, so called from a stream of that name flowing along near its base, begins a few miles east of Jeffersonville, and runs parallel to the Rich mountain to the county line on the east.

*Brushy mountain*, receiving its name from the brushy character of its growth on the south side, runs in the same direction as the Clinch, and forms the southern boundary line of the county.

*Paint Lick mountain* is a continuation of the House and Barn mountain in Russell county, and is separated from it by the Maiden Spring fork, of Clinch river. There was once a great elk and deer lick, near its western end, and there are many paintings (still visible), supposed to have been executed by the Shawanoe Indians, or perhaps, by the Cherokees. The paintings represent birds, women, Indian warriors, etc. From these paintings, the lick was named, which was soon applied to the mountain. It rises near the western county line, and runs in the general direction to near Jeffersonville: it here sinks, to admit the passage of another fork of Clinch river, and again rises, forming Elkhorn mountain.

*Deskins' mountain*, so called from an early settler, runs parallel, and near the Paint lick, for about the same distance.

The *Great Flat Top*, rises from a spur of the Cumberland mountains, which traverses the county. It is in the north-east corner of the county, and on it, corner Tazewell, Mercer, and Wyoming counties. It receives its name from a large level area on its summit.

To notice the remaining small mountains and great ridges, would occupy too much space. The northern part of the county is much cut up with them, and renders it almost valueless for farming purposes. For grazing, however, it cannot be excelled.

#### VALLEYS.

The principal valleys, are the Clinch, Abb's, Poor, Baptist, Thompson's, and Deskins'. They are not so wide as those

of the adjoining counties, yet sufficiently broad, to afford room for some beautiful farms.

*Clinch valley*, through which flows the north fork of Clinch river, and from which it was named, is the most important, and, perhaps, contains the best lands in the county. In it is located the seat of justice, and through it passes the Fincastle and Cumberland Gap turnpike.

*Abb's valley*, so called from Absalom Looney, the first white settler, is a narrow, but beautiful and fertile valley, under which runs a creek of considerable size, its entire length of about twelve miles—It is much celebrated, in consequence of the horrible massacres which were perpetrated in it.

*Poor valley*, is between Clinch and Brushy mountains: it is narrow, and the lands poorer, than most of the surrounding country; yet, in point of mineral wealth, it is one of the richest valleys in the county. It is several hundred feet lower than the adjoining valleys.

*Thompson's valley*, between Rich and Clinch mountains, is one of the most beautiful in the county. The lands are good and in a high state of cultivation. It is from two to three miles wide, and was so called from a large family residing in it, and who were among its earliest settlers.

*Baptist valley*, was so named from the number of persons belonging to the Baptist denomination of Christians, who settled in it. It is a valley of some importance, the Tazewell C. H. and Kentucky turnpike passing through its entire length.

*Deskins' valley*, between a range of hills, and Deskins'



mountain, received its name from an early settler. There are some fine farms in it, though the valley is small.

#### RIVERS AND CREEKS.

Clinch is the principal, and Sandy, the most important in the county. The latter heads in the county, and is navigable to the county line, for flat-boats. East river, Tug, and Blue-stone creek, are considerable streams.

*Clinch river* heads in this county, and receives its name from an incident which occurred on it in 1767. A hunter named Castle, left Augusta and went to what is now Russell county, to hunt with a party of friendly Indians, who were living on it. This tribe made frequent visits to the settlement, carrying off horses, and such other stock as they could get hold of. A man named Harman, who was robbed of some things, and believing Castle to be the instigator to these acts, applied to a Mr. Buchanan, a justice of Augusta, for a writ to arrest Castle and bring him to trial. The writ was issued, and a party raised to arrest him, among whom, was a lame man named Clinch. The party went to Castle's camp, and attempted to arrest him, but the Indians joined Castle, and Harman's party were forced to retreat across the river.

In the hurry of the moment, Clinch got behind, and while fording the river was shot by an Indian, who rushed forward to secure his scalp, but was shot by one of Harman's party. The vulgar tradition is, that an Indian was pursuing a white man, who clenched, and drowned the Indian in the stream.

I had the former statement, however, from a grandson of the magistrate who issued the warrant for Castle's apprehension.

As before stated, the river rises in the county, east of Jeffersonville, running in a westerly direction, and receiving numerous small streams, till it reaches what is known as New Garden, in Russell county. It is then joined by the Maiden Spring fork, which rises in Thompson's valley, flows a short distance, sinks several miles, and rises again near what is known as Maiden Spring, owned by Col. Rees T. Bowen, and one of the loveliest places in Tazewell. This spring is named also, from an incident which happened to Rees Bowen, the earliest settler near it, and grandfather of its present owner.

When Mr. Bowen first saw the spring, he discovered a fine young female deer, feeding on the moss within the orifice from which gushes the spring. He shot it, and when he went to get his deer, saw a pair of elk horns standing on their points, and leaning against the rocks. Mr. Bowen, was a very large and tall man, yet he had no difficulty in walking upright under the horns. He chose this place for his home, and the spring and river, have since been known as Maiden Spring and Fork.

The *Sandy river* has several branches heading in this county, the most important of which, are the La Vissee, Dry, and Tug Forks.

*La Vissee*, has many branches in Tazewell, and is navigable for flat-boats, to the county line. The first white man who ascended it, was a Frenchman, who found a well-executed

design, or painting upon a peeled poplar; hence its name—"la," translated, meaning the, and "visee," meaning a design, aim, or representation. It is sometimes called Louisa fork, from Louisa C. H., Kentucky, near its junction with the Tug river.

The *Dry fork*, heads about six miles N. W. from Jeffersonville, and flows into the Tug river. So named, because the waters on it get very low during the summer.

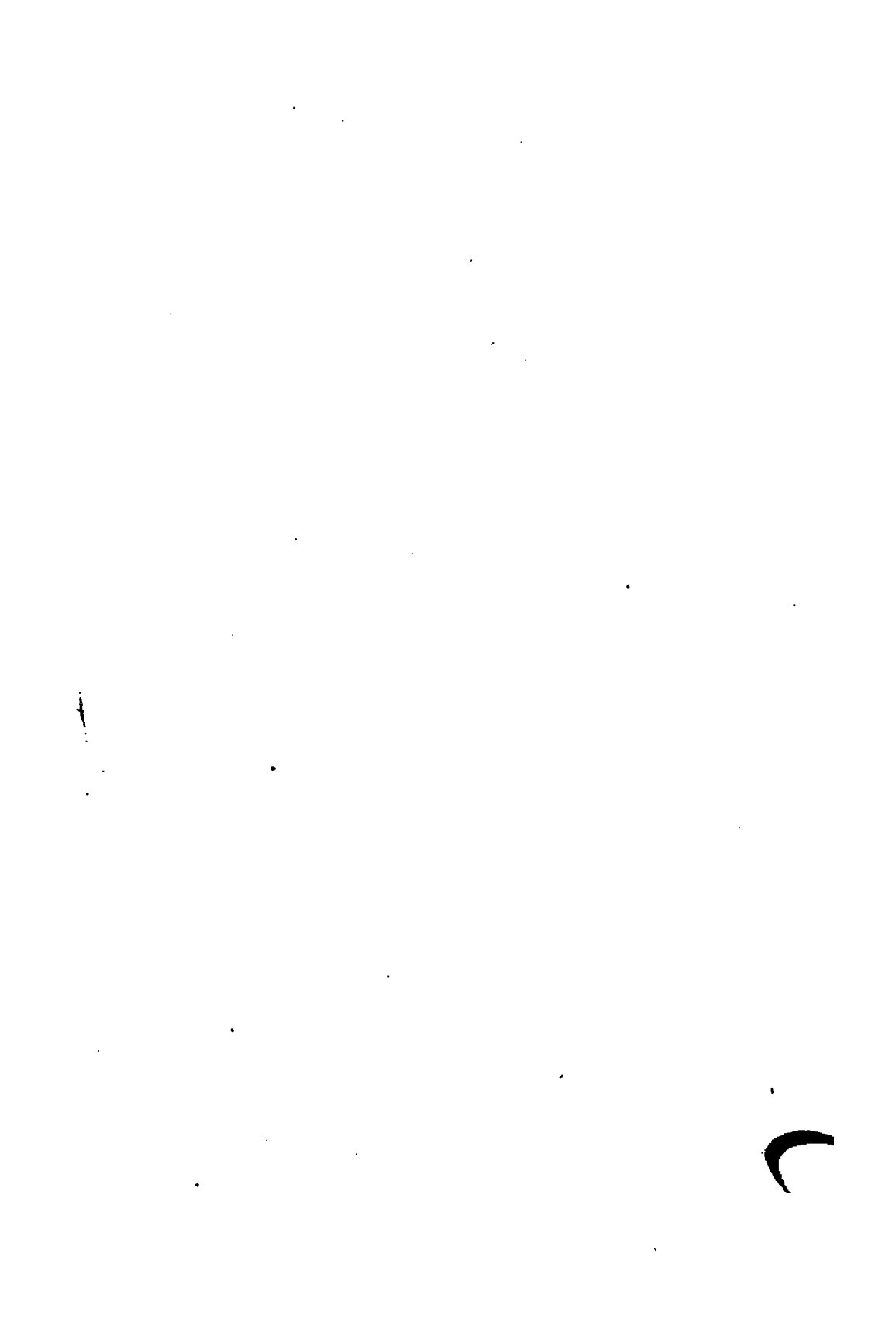
The *Tug river*, is named from an incident which took place in 1756. "Maj. Andrew Lewis was appointed to command this expedition (one ordered by Gov. Dinwiddie, to march against the Shawanoes on the Ohio), and directed to proceed against the Shawnee villages, near the mouth of the Great Kanawha. Maj. Lewis led his men, through great peril and suffering, within a few miles of the Ohio, when a messenger, ordering a return of the expedition, reached him. The whole party suffered intensely during this march, and once were reduced to the necessity of cutting their buffalo-skins into tugs, and eating them; hence the name Tug River."\* The river is in the northern part of the county, and abounds in fine fish. It is too much obstructed by falls, to be navigable at any stage of water.

*East river*, so called from the direction which it flows, is a small stream, emptying into the Kanawha.

*Bluestone creek or river*, also, flows east, and is remarkable for the clear blue color of its waters; hence its

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\* De Hass's History of Western Virginia, pages 202-3.





COVE AND MADEN SPRING FARMS.

name. In addition to these rivers (which are but large creeks), there are quite a number of creeks, only a few of which will here be noticed.

*Great Indian creek*, rises in what is known, as the Sinking waters, and flows southerly, into Clinch river, sixteen miles west of Jeffersonville. A man named Ray, was killed on it, by some Indians. At its head is a spring, said to possess the property of petrifying nuts, twigs, etc., some of which are in my possession.

*Cove creek*, rises in the Cove, and meanders under ground through it, coming out at Maiden Spring. Numerous openings from the surface enable stock to get water from it.

*Wolf creek*, rises in Burk's Garden, flows into the Kanawha (here called New River), and was named from a rencounter with a wolf on its margin.

There are hundreds of others, each one of which, by its name, perpetuates some traditional incident; but I have not space to notice them.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PARTICULAR LOCALITIES.

##### COVE.

This is a large area of nearly level land, containing about fifteen square miles, and situated at the west end of Thompson's valley, between Clinch and Short mountains, which was evidently, at one time, connected with the Rich mountain. The waters seem to have accumulated, and forced a way through that spot now know as Maiden Spring. The land is very fertile, well timbered and watered, and the

surrounding farms in fine order. Add to it the adjoining lands and residences of Maj. H. S. Bowen and Col. Rees T. Bowen, and I know of no place or section in Tazewell county, of the same extent, so desirable. The society is good, and the inhabitants very hospitable. I hesitate not to call this the garden-spot of Tazewell county. It was settled in 1772, by John Craven, who was followed, the next year, by Rees Bowen, David Ward, and William Garrison. The latter, however, settled on its very edge. The descendants of these men are still living in the Cove. The Wards, Bowens, Gillepsies, Barneses, and Youngs, constitute a major part of its population. The scenery from here is fine, and the climate warmer, than other parts of the county.

#### RICHLANDS.

This locality is in the western part of the county, on Clinch river, and is noted for its fine lands. It is a pretty place, and in every sense of the word, desirable.

#### BLUESTONE.

Here is to be found another fine farming country; the people moral and prosperous, and blessed with "peace and plenty." It is in the eastern part of the county, on Bluestone river. The Fincastle turnpike passes through it. The settlement contains a division of the Sons of Temperance, which speaks much for its population.

#### BURK'S GARDEN.

The following description of Burk's garden, was written by Thomas G. Harrison, a gentleman of Jeffersonville, and

published in the Jeffersonville Democrat, in September 1850, which, polished in novel style as it is, is in the main correct.

"Burk's garden, in Tazewell county, Virginia, considered in its geological and geographical character, abounds with a beauty perhaps unparalleled by any other scope of land, of equal area, on the American continent. It is about ten miles in length, from east to west, and five in breadth, from north to south; entirely surrounded by lofty mountains, save a narrow pass, through which flows Wolf creek, a small, rippling rivulet, which derives its name from the number of wolves caught in traps, and otherwise exterminated on its margin.

"Seventy years ago, a man named Burk ascended the Garden mountain on the south side, and from its summit beheld, for the first time ever civilized man did, this enchanting vale, rich in the exuberance of nature's virgin dress. According to a well-authenticated tradition, Burk descended the mountain late in the evening, accompanied by his dogs and gun, and erected his camp near a tinkling fountain; breaking, for the first time, the primeval solitude that had reigned in this dell since creation's birth, the undisturbed genius of the woods. At every stroke of his ax in the gnarled oak and smooth poplar, echo, aroused from her lair, answered loud, and flew shrinking back into her covered recess, as if mad at the rude invasion. The branching antlered buck, and screaming panther, stalked around his camp with an air of curiosity, as if wondering what his presence could mean, yet proud of their native freedom, and



unconscious of their deadly foe. What a beautiful prospect was spread out before Burk on that solitary evening! Flowers of every hue and odor, and bright speckled trout, flirting the crystal waters with their glittering fins, and anon skimming the surface of the pearly rill: birds of gaudy plumage and silvery sound, apparently sporting in an ecstasy of glee at the idea of having for an auditor, a fair visaged biped of stately step and comely form; and perchance they poured from their mellow throats a thousand varied choruses of harping melodies, soothing and charming the wrapped senses of the astounded Burk, until he fancied himself in a very Jehosaphat, or an elysium, in which every fleeting zephyr was freighted with a tuneful intelligence, whispering happiness, or, as Milton would say,

"It seemed a fit haunt for the gods,"

As, in truth, it was a real haunt for the wild gods of Columbia—the red men of the forest. Two Indian tribes, the Cherokees and Shawanoes, frequented south-western Virginia, at the time Burk explored these wilds. He was an excellent hunter and pioneer, of the Daniel Boone style; and buffalo, elk, and deer, were quite numerous, at this period, in Burk's garden (I understand that buffalo were scarce.B.)—for wild pea-vine, and blue-grass, grew four or five feet high, from mountain to mountain—making it a perfect paradise for the grazing species."

\* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* "In 1848, the legislature of Virginia granted a charter for the construction of a road, called Fancy

gap and Tazewell C. H. turnpike, which will pass through the interior of the garden, and which, when completed, will add greatly to its importance."

I have not space for the insertion of the whole article, and hence have been compelled to partially mutilate it. There is some dispute about Burk having discovered the garden; some contending that it was discovered by Morris Griffy, a stepson of Burk. The garden is located in the south-east part of the county, about sixteen miles from Jeffersonville. It was evidently, at one time, nothing more than a pond, which eventually, forced its way through Wolf creek pass. The soil is certainly alluvial. I beg to differ with Mr. H. about its being the most desirable part of the county, for two reasons, first, its climate is too cold to mature corn well, and secondly, it is hard of access. It is 900 feet higher than Jeffersonville, or 1000 feet above the bed of Clinch river. Its winters are four weeks longer than those of the country around the C. H., and six weeks longer than those of the Cove. Small grain and grass do exceedingly well upon its soil.

#### COUNTRY AROUND JEFFERSONVILLE.

The lands here are well improved, and will compare favorably with any in the county. There are many fine farms near the town, among which may be mentioned those of Thos. Peery, Esq., John Wynn, Esq., Col. John B. George, Kiah Harman, Henry, Elias, G. W., and William Harman, Joseph, and Thomas G. Harrison, A. A. Spotts, Hervey G. Peery, Esq., and Dr. H. F. Peery. 50,000 acres of these

lands, are worth from forty to fifty dollars an acre, and little could be purchased for even that sum.

These farms are well stocked, and laid down in fine grasses, among which may be mentioned, blue-grass, long English, timothy, and clover. The dwellings are good, and an air of ease, and opulence, is everywhere seen. The water is an excellent quality of blue limestone.

#### CLEAR FORK SETTLEMENT.

This is in the eastern part of the county, on the creek of that name. It has the reputation of being a fine farming country, and a place every way desirable. When Tazewell county shall be generally as well improved, as the places which have been mentioned, it may well be called a *Mountain Garden*.

#### JEFFERSONVILLE.

(SEE FRONTISPICE).

Jeffersonville is the seat of justice or capital of the county, and is situated on an elevated plain in Clinch valley, about one mile from the river. It is centrally situated in the county, if regarded from east to west, but not so from north to south, being within ten miles of the southern line, and upward of forty from its northern boundary. The surrounding scenery is indeed beautiful. Immediately south of the town rises Wolf creek knob, or *the Peak*, the summit of which, in winter, is frequently covered with snow, while verdant grass is seen lower down the mountain side, in beautiful contrast with



SCENERY WEST FROM JEFFERSONVILLE



the dreariness of the snow-mantled top. In summer it is beautifully decorated with laurel and ivy blossoms; great quantities of these shrubs growing near its summit.

To the east are seen the three abrupt and rocky heads of East River mountain; to the west, like ends of Paint Lick and Deskins' mountains, which, however, are somewhat obscured by large hills. To get a good view, a hill north of the town must be ascended; from this hill the view on the opposite page was taken.

In this view, the high peak to the left represents Morris's knob. The other two to the right, are the ends of Paint Lick and Deskins' mountains. In the distance are seen mountains in Russell county. North of the town a pleasant succession of hills rise, which give a beautiful aspect to the country, especially when the forests are covered with foliage.

The town contains about eighty houses, and numbers over three hundred inhabitants. Few villages anywhere in southwestern Virginia, have a neater appearance, or present a more business-like scene. The streets are laid out at right angles, the principal ones running east and west. The main street is well paved and partially McAdamized; it will soon be completed. The houses are usually well built, and painted white. A better site might have been selected for its location, but the land could not be purchased. The most objectionable feature to its present location is the difficulty of getting water. A single spring supplies most of the town with water, which is hauled in barrels. Considering the danger of the town in case of fire, it is a little strange why

water has not been brought into the town by pipes from a spring of purest water three or four hundred feet above the town on the side of the mountain. The cost of doing so would not probably exceed \$1,000.

Jeffersonville was founded in June, 1800, and named from Thomas Jefferson. The name really signifying Jefferson's village.

The following is a business directory of the town :

**NORTHWESTERN BRANCH BANK.**—Main St., E. C. H.

*Officers.*— President, John W. Johnston ; Cashier, Isaac M. Benham ; Clerk, Rees B. Gillespie.

*Directory.*— John C. McDonald, John B. George, Kiah Harman, Geo. W. G. Browne, S. F. Watts, Samuel Graham, Isaac E. Chapman.—Capital \$100,000

Discount day, Friday.

**JEFFERSONVILLE SAVINGS BANK.**—Main St., nearly opposite Court House.

*Officers.*— Cashier or Treasurer, Addison A. Spotts ; Secretary, William O. Yost.

*Directory.*—Thomas Peery, Rees T. Bowen, A. A. Spotts, Granville Jones, William Cox, William O. Yost, John C. Hopkins.—Capital, by limitation, \$100,000.

Discount day, Saturday.

**UNION HOTEL.**—Main St., one door west of the C. H. Proprietors, R. W. & T. Witten.

VIRGINIA HOUSE.—Main St., three doors east of the C. H. Proprietors, McCarty & Bosang.

POST OFFICE.—Opposite C. H. P. M., A. A. Spotts. Deputies, Witten and Chapman.

MAIL ARRIVALS.

Northern mail, via Wytheville, Tuesdays and Fridays.  
 “ “ “ Fincastle, Tuesdays and Saturdays.  
 Southern “ “ Broadford, Wednesdays.  
 Western “ “ Lebanon, Mondays and Saturdays.  
 “ “ “ Richlands, Wednesdays.

MAIL DEPARTURES.

Northern mail, via Wytheville, Wednesdays and Saturdays.  
 “ “ “ Fincastle, Mondays and Saturdays.  
 Southern “ “ Broadford, Wednesdays.  
 Western “ “ Lebanon, Tuesdays and Saturdays.  
 “ “ “ Richlands, Thursdays.

PHYSICIANS.

H. F. Peery. Office, west end Main St.  
 R. W. Witten. “ Union Hotel.  
 Jas. R. Doak. “ Main St., West C. H.  
 G. W. L. Bickley. “ Union Hotel.  
 Jno. M. Estill. “ Main St.  
 Thos. G. Witten. “ “ “ opp. Va. House.

LAWYERS.

Joseph Stras. Office, Main Street.



John A. Kelly. Office, Main Street.  
 John W. Johnston. " " "  
 Wade D. Strother. " " "  
 Wm. Henry Maxwell. " Court-House room.  
 Sterling F. Watts. " Main Street.

## CLERK SUPERIOR AND COUNTY COURTS.

G. W. G. Browne. Office, C. H.

## JAILER.

William J. Crutchfield.

## PRINTING OFFICE.

S. W. Advocate. Geo. Fred. Holmes, Editor.

## MERCHANTS.

Witten & Chapman, Main Street, Groceries and Dry Goods.

A. J. Dunn, " " " " "

F. P. & W. Spotts, " " " " "

W. W. Dunn & Bros., " " " " "

John C. McDonald, " " " " "

St. Clair & Hopkins, " " " " "

W. Page & Co., " " Jewelers.

A. McPhatridge, " " Tinware.

W. O. & H. A. Yost, " " Saddlery.

William Cox, Back " "

Eldred R. Baylor, Main " Clothing Store.

P. Ingoldsby, " " " "

W. O. Yost,	Back Street, Tannery.
W. Cox,	" " "
G. G. Hickman,	Court Alley, Boots and Shoes.
Thos. Witten,	Back Street, Tannery.
W. J. Crutchfield	Jail Building, Boots and Shoes.

## BLACKSMITHS.

Granville Jones,	Main Street.
S. G. Huddle,	" "

## CHURCHES.

Methodist,	Main Street,	Rev. G. W. G. Browne, Pastor.
Presbyterian,	" "	Rev. Mr. Naff " "
Catholic,	Near " ———	Priest.

MASONIC LODGE, Main Street, Tuesdays.  
 FLOYD LODGE, 84, I. O. O. F. " " Wednesdays.  
 B. U. (H. F.) C. A.: Circle, Jail Buildings, Saturdays.  
 SONS TEMPERANCE—Hall, Main Street, Fridays.

JEFFERSONVILLE HIST. SOCIETY—Library Room, Main Street,  
 Quarterly.

There are several industrial establishments, which are not  
 noticed.

## LIBERTY HILL.

Situated on the Fincastle and Cumberland Gap turnpike,  
 eight miles west of Jeffersonville, is a flourishing little vil-  
 lage, and would soon grow to importance if it was so located  
 as to afford building-ground: but situated in a narrow valley,  
 between high hills, there is little room for expansion. It has

one hotel, three stores, and several industrial establishments. Notwithstanding its proximity to Jeffersonville, it has considerable trade.

It was founded in 182—, and named from a church used by all denominations of Christians. "*Hill*" was added to distinguish it from Liberty in Bedford county, Va. It is well supplied with water, and is a pleasant place.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.

THERE are three kinds of land in Tazewell, which will be noticed in order. It is generally known that it is the celebrated blue-grass soil, strongly impregnated with lime, and very productive. It is a clay loam, very tenacious in its nature, and easily resuscitated. But to the description of the different kinds.

1st. *The bottom lands*, generally limestone, soil stiff, and very productive. The soil of the bottom lands may be regarded as slightly alluvial, for it is generally deposited from the hill-sides and water during the wet seasons of winter and spring.

Few rocks appearing above the surface renders it easy to cultivate, and enables the farmer to do so with most advantage.

Corn is mostly grown on the bottom lands, because it is easier to plow. It makes fine meadows.

2d. *The hill, or upland.* This is to be found on the base of mountains, and over small hills. This class of land is quite as valuable as the bottom lands; it is generally laid down in meadow grasses. It is somewhat disfigured by rocks, occasionally near the surface, or jutting through the soil. They really injure the land less than one used to rockless lands would suppose. The soil near them is richer than it is a few yards from them; hence, the grass is ranker, and produces as much to a given area as if no rocks appeared. Experiment has tested this.

Very many acres of this upland is destitute of rocks, and then nothing can exceed, in agricultural beauty, the soft, luxuriant blue-grass with which it is covered.

The 3d class, or *mountain land*, is generally used for pasturage. It is found on the mountains, above an elevation of 600 feet. It is equally as rich as either the first or second classes, but is too cold to mature grains, unless it be rye. It is also too steep for cultivation, or even for growing grass had it to be mowed. The stock, however, succeed in climbing the mountain-sides for it, and during the summer keep fat. It was formerly but little valued; it now bears a good price.

There is a strange phenomenon here (as in other mountain countries), affecting the difference of lands found on north and south hill-sides. The cause, or explanation, has been given under the head of Meteorology. The soil on the north sides of the mountains and hills is a dark, loose loam, and ex-

tremely rich ; the rocks (though few) are the finest quality of limestone. On the south, they are essentially different in kind and quality, being flint and clay slate, often pulverized so as not much to impede the plow. It will require some geological speculations to account for this difference in rock, and to such works I refer the reader. The growth on the south sides, above 600 feet, is shrubby, and generally oak or chestnut ; and the land does not produce, by any means, as well as the valley or north side lands. The south side land, below 600 feet, was formerly but little valued, being gritty, but it is now looked on as the finest wheat land.

I remarked that the soil of the land in Tazewell was "tenacious;" I mean by this that it wears well. A field on the Crab-orchard farm, cleared in 1775, upward of seventy-five years ago, has not had a year's rest, and now produces equally as well as any land in the county. With anything like care, the farmer here can never impoverish his lands.

I have never known a judge of land to examine those of Tazewell, without passing the highest encomiums upon them, and I hope I shall not be accused of partiality when I say — I have seen lands in most of the states and territories, and have found none, *anywhere*, more deserving encomiums than those of Tazewell county, Virginia. To the farmer it will be gratifying to know, that our lands, though broken, do not wash.

The following list of plants and forest trees, was furnished me by my excellent friend, H. F. Peery, M. D., a gentleman

who has, perhaps, paid more attention to botany, than any one else in south-western Virginia. He informs me, that a few unimportant shrubs have been omitted, but that the list embraces nearly all plants known to botanists, growing in the county. A few exotics, which, however, flourish well, have also been included. The genera and species are given.

(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.)	(COMMON NAME.)	(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.)	(COMMON NAME.)
<i>Acer rubrum</i> .....	Soft or red maple.	<i>Alnus serrulata</i> ...	Alder.
" <i>saccharinum</i>	Sugar maple.	<i>Althæa officinalis</i>	Marsh mallow.
" <i>striatum</i> .....	Striped maple.	<i>Althæa rosea</i> .....	Hollyhock.
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow.	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	White coxcomb.
<i>Acones calamus</i> ...	.....	" <i>melancholicus</i>	Love lies bleeding.
<i>Actæa Americana</i>	Bane-berry.	" <i>tricolor</i> .....	.....
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maiden-hair.	" <i>lividus</i> .....	.....
<i>Æsculus glabra</i> ...	Buckeye.	<i>Amaryllis undulata</i>	Waved lily.
<i>Æthusa cynapium</i>	Fools' parsley.	<i>Ambrosia elatior</i> ...	Hog-weed.
<i>Agaricus campe-</i>	[mushroom.	<i>Amyris gileadensis</i>	Balm of Gilead.
<i>tris</i> .....	Common eatable	<i>Andromeda caly-</i>	
<i>Agave Virginica</i> ...	False aloe.	<i>culata</i> .....	Leather leaf.
<i>Agrimonia eupato-</i>		" <i>arborea</i> .....	Sorrel tree, or sour
<i>ria</i> .....	Agrimony.	<i>Anemone Virgini-</i>	[wood.
<i>Agrostemma githa-</i>		<i>ana</i> .....	Wind flower.
<i>go</i> .....	Cockle.	<i>Anethum fœnicu-</i>	
<i>Agrostis vulgaris</i>	Red top.	<i>lum</i> .....	Fennel.
" <i>alba</i> .....	White top or bon-	<i>Angelica atropur-</i>	
	net grass.	<i>purea</i> .....	Angelica.
<i>Aletris farinosa</i> ...	Star-grass—colic	<i>Anthemis cotula</i> ...	May-weed, or dog-
	root.		fennel
<i>Alisma plantago</i> ...	Water plantain.	" <i>nobilis</i> .....	Chamomile.
<i>Allium cepa</i> .....	Garden onion,	<i>Anthoxanthum al-</i>	
" <i>Schoenoprasum</i>	Onions.	<i>tissimum</i> O...	Sweet vernal grass.

(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.)	(COMMON NAME.)	(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.)	(COMMON NAME.)
<i>Apium petroselinum</i> .....	Parsley.	<i>Aster cornifolius</i> ..	.....
<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i> ...	Dog bane.	" <i>multiflorus</i> ..	.....
" <i>Cannabium</i> ...	.....	" <i>flexuosus</i> ....	.....
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> .....	Wild columbine.	" <i>diversifolius</i> .	.....
" <i>vulgaris</i> .....	Garden columbine.	" <i>amygdalinus</i> .	.....
<i>Aralia racemosa</i> ...	Spikenard.	" <i>cornifolius</i> ..	.....
" <i>nudicaulis</i> .....	Wild sarsaparilla.	" <i>corymbosus</i> ..	.....
<i>Arbutus uva-ursi</i> ..	Bear berry—kinnickinnick.	" <i>amplexicaulis</i> .	.....
<i>Arctium lappa</i> ....	Burdock.	" <i>verticor</i> ...	.....
<i>Aristolochia ser-pentaria</i> .....	Virginia snake-root.	" <i>conyzoides</i> ..	.....
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i> .....	Wormwood.	" <i>carolinianus</i> .	.....
" <i>abrotanum</i> ....	Southern wood.	" <i>tardiflorus</i> ..	.....
<i>Arum tryphyllum</i> .	Indian turnip.	<i>Astragalus canadensis</i> .....	.....
" <i>dracontium</i> ....	Green dragon.	<i>Atropa physaloides</i> .....	.....
<i>Asarum canadense</i> .	Wild ginger, or white snake root.	<i>Avena præcox</i> ....	Dwarf oats.
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> ..	Com. milkweed.	" <i>sativa</i> .....	Common oats.
" <i>incarnata</i> .	.....	<i>Azalea nudiflora</i>	(many species) .Honeysuckle.
" <i>obtusifolia</i> .	.....	<i>Ballota nigra</i> ....	Black horehound
" <i>quadrifolia</i> .	.....	<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i> ..	Wild indigo.
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i> .....	Dwarf milkweed.	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> ..	Barberry.
" <i>tuberosa</i> .....	Pleurisy root.	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> .....	Com. garden beet
<i>Asimina triloba</i> ...	Amer. pawpaw tree.	<i>Betula populifolia</i> .	White birch.
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i> .....	Asparagus.	<i>Bignonia radicans</i> .	Trumpet flower.
<i>Aster rigidus</i> .....	.....	<i>Brassica rapa</i> ....	Turnip.
		" <i>oleracea</i> (many species) .....	Cabbage.
		<i>Calamintha grandiflora</i> .....	Mountain calaminth
		<i>Caltha palustris</i> ..	American cowslip
		<i>Carex sterilis</i> ....	Barren sedge.
		<i>Carpinus americana</i> .	Moonbeam.

(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.)	(COMMON NAME.)	(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.)	(COMMON NAME.)
<i>Carya alba</i> .....	Shellbark hickory.	<i>Ocubita ovifera</i> ...	Egg squash.
<i>Cassia marilandica</i> .	Wild senna.	" pepo....	Pumpkin.
<i>Castanea vesca</i> ...	Chestnut.	" cetrulus.	Watermelon.
<i>Catalpa cordifolia</i> .	.....	" citrulus.	Ground calabash.
<i>Celastrus scandens</i> .	False bitter-sweet.	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> .....	Hound tongue.[per.
<i>Centanea America-na</i> .....	.....	<i>Cyripedium pubescens</i> .....	Yellow lady's slip-
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> .	Red bud, or Judas	<i>Cyripedium spectabile</i> .....	Gay lady's slipper.
<i>Chenopodium al-bum</i> .....	green pigweed.	<i>Cyripedium acaule</i> .	Low " "
"botrys.....	Jerusalem oak.	<i>Datura stramonium</i> .	Thorn apple.
<i>Cicuta virosa</i> ....	Water hemlock.	<i>Delphin. consolid.</i>	Larkspur.
<i>Olemais Virginica</i> .	Virgin's bower.	<i>Dianthus armeria</i> .	Pink.
<i>Clvinopodium vulg.</i>	Field thyme.	" barbatus...	Sweet William.
<i>Cnicus lanceolatus</i> .	Common thistle.	" caryophyll..	Carnation Pink.
<i>Comptonia aspleni-folia</i> .....	Sweet fennel.	" chinensis..	China Pink.
<i>Convallaria bifolia</i> .	Dwarf solomon seal.	" plumarius.	Pheasant ey'd pink.
" stellata..	.....	" deltoides..	London pride.
" trifolia..	.....	<i>Dirca paulustris</i> ...	Leather wood.
" racemosa .....	.....	<i>Dracocephalum canariense</i> .....	Balm Gilead.
" majalis..	Lily of the valley.	<i>Echium vulgare</i> ...	Blue thistle.
<i>Convolvulus pan-duratus</i> .....	Wild potato.	<i>Epiphegus virginianus</i> .....	Beech drop.
" purpureus.	Morning glory.	<i>Erigeron bellidifolium</i> .....	.....
<i>Cornus florida</i> ....	Dogwood.	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> .	Stork bill gera'm.
<i>Corydalis cucullar.</i>	Colic weed.	" cicutarium.	Hemlock "
<i>Cratægus coccinea</i> .	Thorn bush.	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> .....	Purple thorough-
" purctata...Common thorn bush.	.....	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> .....	Boneset th'wort. "
<i>Cucubalus behen</i> ..	Campion.		
<i>Cucumis anguria</i> ..	Prickly cucumber.		
" melo.....	Muskmelon.		



LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.) (COMMON NAME.)	(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.) (COMMON NAME.)
<i>Euphorbia corollat.</i> Sancy Jack.	<i>Humulus lupulus.</i> Hop.
" <i>lathyrus.</i> Caper tree.	<i>Hypericum perfora-</i>
<i>Fagus ferruginea.</i> Red beech.	<i>tum</i> (many spe-
" <i>sylvatica.</i> White beech.	<i>cies</i> ) ..... St. John's wort.
<i>Fragaria virginiana.</i> Wild strawberry.	<i>Ictodes foetida.</i> Skunk cabbage.
<i>Fraxinus acumi-</i>	<i>Ilex opaca.</i> Holly.
<i>nata.</i> ..... White ash.	<i>Impatiens pallida.</i> Touch-me-not.
<i>Gaultheria procum-</i>	<i>Inula helenium.</i> Elecampane.
<i>bens.</i> ..... Wintergreen.	<i>Iris versicolor</i> (sev-
<i>Gentiana quinque-</i>	<i>eralspecies</i> ) .... Blue flag.
<i>flora.</i> ..... .	<i>Juglans cinerea.</i> Butternut.
<i>Gentiana crinita.</i> .. .	<i>Juniperus sabina.</i> Savin.
" <i>saponaria.</i> Soap gentian.	<i>Kalmia latifolia.</i> Broad leaf laurel.
<i>Geraneum macula-</i>	" <i>angustifolia.</i> Narrow l'ed laurel.
<i>tum.</i> ..... Crowfoot gerane'm.	<i>Laurus benzoin.</i> Spice bush.
<i>Geraneum roberti-</i>	" <i>sassafras.</i> Sassafras tree.
<i>anum.</i> ..... .	<i>Leontodon taraxa-</i>
<i>Gillenia trifoliata.</i> Indian physic.	<i>cum.</i> ..... Dandelion.
<i>Glechoma hederacea.</i> Ground ivy.	<i>Lepidum virginic.</i> Wild peppergrass.
<i>Gnaphalium marga-</i>	<i>Lilium</i> (several spe-
<i>ritaceum.</i> ..... Life everlasting.	<i>cies</i> ) ..... Lily.
<i>Gratiola virginica.</i> Hyssop, or isop.	<i>Linum usitatissim.</i> Flax.
<i>Hamamelis virgin-</i>	<i>Liriodendron tulip-</i>
<i>ica.</i> ..... Witch hazle.	<i>ifera.</i> ..... White poplar tree.
<i>Hedeoma pulegioi-</i>	<i>Lobelia cardinalis.</i> Cardinal flower.
<i>des.</i> ..... Pennyroyal.	" <i>inflata.</i> Indian Tobacco.
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	" <i>syphilitica.</i> .....
(several kinds) .. Sunflower.	<i>Lonicera caprifo-</i>
<i>Helleborus foetidus.</i> Hellebore.	<i>lium.</i> ..... Honeysuckle.
<i>Helonias dioecia.</i> Unicorn plant.	<i>Lonicera flava.</i> Yel'w honeysuckle
<i>Hepatica tricolor.</i> Liverwort.	<i>Macrotrys racemosa.</i> Oohash—rattlew'd
<i>Heuchera America-</i>	<i>Magnolia glauca.</i> Swamp laurel.
<i>na.</i> ..... Alum root.	" <i>acuminata.</i> Cucumber tree.

(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.) (COMMON NAME.)	(LINNÆAN DESIGNATION.) (COMMON NAME.)
<i>Magnolia tripetala</i> . Umbrella tree.	<i>Prunus virginiana</i> . Wild cherry tree.
<i>Malva rotundifolia</i> . Low mallows.	“ <i>domestica</i>
<i>Malva Crispa</i> .....	(3 varieties).... Plum tree.
<i>Marubium vulgare</i> . Hoarhound.	<i>Pycnanthemum in-</i>
<i>Melissa officinalis</i> . Balm.	canum..... Mountain mint.
<i>Mentha borealis</i> ... Horsemint.	<i>Pycnanthemum lini-</i>
“ <i>piperita</i> ... Peppermint.	folium..... Virginia thyme.
“ <i>viridis</i> .... Spearmint.	<i>Pyrola umbellata</i> . Wintergreen, or
<i>Mimulus ringens</i> .. Monkey flower.	pipsissiwa.
“ <i>alatus</i> ... Sq. stemmed do.	<i>Pyrus coronaria</i> .. Crab apple.
<i>Morus nigra</i> ..... Black mulberry.	“ <i>communis</i>
<i>Nepeta cataria</i> .... Catmint.	(many kinds)... Pear.
<i>Nicotiana rustica</i> .. Common tobacco.	<i>Pyrus mallus</i> (ma-
<i>Nyssa multiflora</i> .. Black lynn.	ny kinds)..... Apple.
<i>Oenothera biennis</i> . Primrose.	<i>Quercus alba</i> ..... White oak.
<i>Origanum vulgare</i> .. Wild marjoram.	“ <i>tinctoria</i> .. Black oak.
<i>Orobanche uniflora</i> . Cancer root.	“ <i>bannisteria</i> Scrub oak.
<i>Ostrya virginica</i> ... Hornbeam.	“ <i>rubra</i> .... Red oak.
<i>Panax quinquefolia</i> . Ginseng.	“ <i>coccinea</i> .. Scarlet oak.
<i>Pelargonium triste</i> . Mourning gera'm.	“ <i>castanea</i> .. Chestnut oak.
<i>Phytolacca decan-</i>	<i>Ranunculus acris</i> ... Crowfoot.
dria..... Poke-weed.	<i>Rhododendron max-</i>
<i>Pinus canadensis</i> .. Hemlock tree.	imum..... Wild rosebay.
“ <i>balsamea</i> .... American silver fir.	<i>Rhus glabrum</i> ..... Sleek sumach.
<i>Plantago major</i> .... Plantain.	“ <i>vernix</i> ..... Poison sumach.
<i>Podophyllum pel-</i>	“ <i>toxicodendron</i> “ ivy.
tatum..... May apple.	<i>Ribes triflorum</i> .... Wild gooseberry.
<i>Polygala senega</i> ... Seneca snake root.	<i>Robinia pseudoac.</i> .. Locust tree.
<i>Polygonum avicu-</i>	<i>Rosa parviflora</i> ... Wild rose.
lare..... Knot-grass.	“ <i>damascena</i> ... Damask rose.
<i>Portulacca oleracea</i> .....	“ <i>canina</i> ..... Dog rose.
<i>Primula farinosa</i> .. Primrose.	“ <i>centifolia</i> .... Hundred leaf'd rose.
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> .. Fine weed.	<i>Rubus occidentalis</i> . Black raspberry.

(LINNEAN DESIGNATION.) (COMMON NAME.)	(LINNEAN DESIGNATION.) (COMMON NAME.)
<i>Rubus trivialis</i> ....Dewberry.	<i>Trifolium repens</i> .White clover.
“ <i>strigosus</i> ...Red raspberry.	“ <i>pratense</i> .Red clover.
<i>Rumex acetosellus</i> .Field sorrel.	<i>Trillium pendulum</i> .Nodding wakerobin.
“ <i>crispus</i> ....Dock.	
<i>Salix viminalis</i> ... Osier—bask’t wi’w.	“ <i>erectum</i>
“ <i>babylonica</i> . Weeping willow.	(several species).False wakerobin.
“ <i>flava</i> .....Yellow weeping “	<i>Tussilago farfara</i> ..Coltsfoot.
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> ..... Black berried alder.	<i>Ulmus americana</i> ..White elm.
<i>Sambucus pubescens</i> .....Red “ “	“ <i>fulva</i> .....Slippery elm.
<i>Scabiosa stellata</i> ...Star scabious.	<i>Uraspermum claytoni</i> .....Sweet cicely.
“ <i>atropurpurea</i> .Sweet “	<i>Veratrum viride</i> ...White hellebore.
<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i> .....Flowering rush.	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> .Mullein.
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i> .....Common skull cap.	<i>Veronica officinalis</i> .Speedwell.
<i>Silene virginica</i> ...Pink catchfly.	<i>Viola</i> (nine species). ....
<i>Solidago bicolor</i> ..White golden-rod.	<i>Vitis vulpina</i> .....Winter grape.
<i>Sirex apulifolia</i> ....Nine bark, or snow-ball.	“ <i>æstivalis</i> ....Summer grape.
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> .Tansy.	“ <i>labruscoides</i> .Fox grape.
	<i>Zanthoxylum fraxineum</i> .....Prickly ash.

In this list the botanist will find many plants not generally supposed to grow in mountainous districts; while the medical gentleman will agree with me, that nature seems to have made this county the home of the most important medicinal plants in her *materia medica*. The following remarks, I quote from an address to the public, by the author, prefacing the constitution and by-laws of the Jeffersonville Historical Society, and published in 1851.

“The Botany of western Virginia is not surpassed by that

of any other section in the temperate zones. 'This region,' as Torrey says, 'may be called a garden of medicinal plants.'

Ornamental, as well as medicinal plants, are here scattered with a profuse hand. To every disease of this region, nature seems to have furnished a remedy. If in any country botany can be studied with advantage, it is here; for flowers of the same class, genera, and species, are blooming for several months. Those in the valleys first, and those found upon the ascent of the mountains, later. Many have been the pleasant days which I have spent in botanical rambles on these mountains, where from frost till frost flowers are ever found.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### LIVE STOCK.

I HAVE not space to treat this subject at that length, which its importance demands, nor is it necessary to go into details, as the people of Tazewell seem awake to their interest, which is closely connected with this subject. When the stock markets of the east are dull, business is seriously affected in this county; the export of stock, constituting a principal source of wealth (see Commerce). The live stock of the county, is valued at 517,330 dollars, and it probably greatly exceeds that sum. My calculations are based upon the census returns for June 1850, since which time, a year and a half has passed, and, of course, has proportionally in-

creased, so that if their valuation was now stated to be 600,000, dollars I should perhaps be within the bounds of truth. There is no subject more interesting to a majority of farmers, but want of space compels me to leave its perfect elucidation to others better qualified for the task.

#### HORSES.

Tazewell has long been celebrated for its fine horses. The principal breeds in the county, are the Tamoleon, Yorick, Packalet, Cooper, and Trueblue.

The *Tamoleons* are celebrated for their riding qualities, and when crossed with the cultivator, are, perhaps, equal to any in the United States. They are very docile, and easily kept in good order. They are sorrel, with flax mane and tail, and with the exception of a few small defects about the head, are fine specimens of the species.

The *Yorick* breed, are generally black, rather small, well muscled, fiery, and make excellent saddle-horses. They are remarkable for having sprung from Yorick, the bitter foe of the Indians (see History of Moore Family—Book, III).

The *Packalet* was introduced into Tazewell from Botetourt county, Va. Most of the fine grays, seen in our county, are of this stock. They are fine harness horses, and are not much inferior to others, if used under the saddle.

The *Coopers* and *Trueblues* are, also, quite numerous, and with many, are favorite breeds.

If we except the Arabians, no people are fonder of fine horses, than those of Tazewell. Boys, from an early age,

manifest great partiality for them. They are generally good judges of a horse, and have them well used. From the character of the country, the labors of a horse are slavish. They bear a good price, first class horses selling from one hundred and fifty, to one hundred and sixty dollars, and second class selling from one hundred, to one hundred and twenty-five dollars. There are upward of 5,000 in the county: about 200 are annually driven south and east. Much money is made by buying and selling in the county; but those who drive them off, generally lose, prices being too high, at home, to admit of speculation, when driven to a distance.

#### MULES.

There are but few in the county, though their culture is beginning to engage public attention. Our climate and pastures seem every way calculated to produce as fine mules, as any part of Kentucky. They require little or no feeding, and will, therefore, yield greater profits than horses, which require more or less grain, during the entire winter. It seems difficult to convince the older farmers, that they are as able to perform the labors of the farm as the horse. Time will, however, convince them that this objection is futile. They should be raised for exportation, as they require as little care as cattle, and yield much greater profits.

#### CATTLE.

There is nowhere to be found, a country better adapted to grazing cattle than this county. The grass is said to be

superior, both in abundance and quality, by all stock dealers. About 7,000 head are annually driven to market; but on which, like all other live stock, great losses are sometimes sustained. This could not be otherwise, while markets are at such a distance.

The improved, are the *long and short horned Durham* and *Devon*. A majority of the cattle in the county are, however, of the unimproved, or native stock, which are less, and do not bear so good a price as the improved.

Three year old steers, are worth from twelve to sixteen dollars, according to the scarcity, and the reported demand in market. There are somewhere in the neighborhood of 18,000 in the county. A part of those driven from the county, are bought up in Kentucky and Tennessee during the fall, wintered and kept till September, when they are taken to market.

#### SHEEP.

There are only about 20,000 head of sheep in the county, and these suffered to run at large on the mountains, without shepherds, subject to the mercy of the wolves and dogs. It is no unusual thing for great numbers to be killed in the spring. The owners pay but little attention to them, and do not even make them as profitable as they might be made.

There are few improved flocks: but the small, unimproved, are here a superior sheep. About 25,000 pounds of wool are annually taken, and a major part exported. It is to be regretted, that our farmers have paid so little attention to wool

growing. I am well convinced, that the same amount of capital invested in sheep, that is invested in cattle, would pay a much better profit. No county in the state is better adapted to the rearing of sheep, than this—a poor sheep being seldom seen.

## HOGS.

There are 21,000 in the county, though not over 500 are annually driven to market. 10,000 pounds are baconed, a portion of which is sold to the adjoining counties of Washington and Smyth. Hogs do not seem to thrive so well here as formerly, owing, no doubt, to the uncertainty, and sometimes scarcity of the chestnut and acorn crops. The markets are in Eastern Virginia. There are not goats sufficient to require notice.

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CHAPTER IX.

## COMMERCE OF TAZEWELL.

CONSIDERING the population of Tazewell, its commerce is rather extensive. To give a correct idea of its growth I shall be compelled to turn back from the present to an early period. It has been elsewhere stated, that during the first years of settlement, all goods were brought from the east on pack-horses. The goods then imported were pottery, and hardware, consisting of axes, knives and forks, pocket-knives, hammers, saws, chisels, etc. Neither groceries nor dry



goods, found a place on the list of importations. After the peace of 1783, the list was enlarged. Hitherto almost everything had been paid for in peltries, a currency much easier acquired by the frontiersmen, and much less liable to depreciation, than the continental money then in circulation.

There being at this time, no roads over which wagons could pass, of course the task of importation was tedious, and sometimes uncertain. From all appearances, none thought it scarcely creditable, that in the short space of half a century, so great a change would have been made. An incident related to me by Mr. Samuel Witten, seems to the point:—

James Witten, one of the early settlers, whose keen judgment had led him to expect that this county was, at some future time, destined to be the seat of a free, happy, and independent people, one day at a house-raising jocosely inquired of his comrades, what they would think, if in twenty-five years, wagons actually came into the county, and passed along the very valley in which they were at work? The rest of the company laughed at the idea, nor could the old man persuade them, that such a thing would take place even in fifty years. Yet, in a few years—much less than twenty-five, the road was made, and wagons passed over the very spot predicted by Mr. Witten, to the no small wonder of the older people, and terror of the children.

The road, however, was not what would now be expected by the name. From this time, the roads continued to improve, and the importation of goods to increase. They were

then wagoned from Philadelphia, one wagon-load generally supplying the whole county. About the year 1800, a sack of coffee, for the first, time was brought into the county. It was kept by Mr. Graham, the merchant, a year and a half, and sent back as being altogether unsaleable. Yet the sons and daughters of these very people, now consume not far from 50,000 pounds in a single twelve-month.

The opening of the Fincastle and Cumberland Gap turn-pike in 183—, furnished another market to the merchant; goods were now purchased in the northern cities, and shipped to Lynchburg, and were thence brought to the county by wagons. About fifteen days is the usual time which elapses from the day of loading in Lynchburg, to the time of arrival in Jeffersonville. Freight is about two dollars and fifty cents per cwt. There is now brought into the county annually, dry goods and groceries to the amount of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. The percentage on goods sold here is considerable, owing partly to the freight, and to the credit system which prevails.

Feathers, beeswax, ginseng, hides, tallow, butter, and wool, are usually bought by the merchants, or bartered for goods. We have no market for wheat, corn, potatoes, oats, hay, buckwheat, or barley.

Cattle are driven to the north-eastern part of the state, and sold to speculators, who fatten and dispose of them in Baltimore, and the northern cities. Hogs are usually driven to the east and south-east part of the state. Horses are driven south and east—generally into North Carolina. Much of

the live stock is bought on credit, and paid for upon the return of the drovers. This accounts for the credit system of the county. The merchants have claims upon the people of the county, for upward of one hundred and forty thousand dollars, but this is a small sum, when we consider that the stock trade alone, brings to the county every year upward of one hundred and ten thousand dollars.

As soon as the Virginia and Tennessee railroad has been completed to Wythville (which will be during the year 1852), this over-balancing will be in favor of the farmer, in place of the merchant. The percentage on importations will not be so great, and the expense of exporting will likewise be lessened. The grains will find a market, and many farmers will buy most of their necessities themselves. Instead of driving cattle to the N. E. counties of Virginia, they will, most likely, be driven to Saltville, slaughtered, pickled up, and sent to a different market. It is to be greatly lamented that efficient steps have not been taken to get a branch from the main road extending into Tazewell county. Could the central road pass us and go to the mouth of Big Sandy river, as it should, we should also find a market for our coal, which is exhaustless, and of the finest quality.

There is at no time over twenty thousand dollars, in active circulation in the county. Large amounts of small bills, issues of the Tennessee, Kentucky, Washington City, and North Carolina banks, are to be seen; and though it is a violation of the laws, to receive or pass them, no attention is paid to it, either by the people or the commonwealth

## HOME MANUFACTURES.

Linsey, jeans, tow-linen, flax-thread, hose, and carpets, are the principal home manufactures of this county: the value of which, according to the census report, is twenty-five thousand four hundred dollars. I have no data from which to estimate the amount of either, but am satisfied that jeans and linsey, stand first in valuation. Tow-linen, which sells for about ten cents per yard, does not cost the Tazewell manufacturer far short of thirty cents. A like statement might be made about the whole list.

These articles are manufactured at the houses of the farmers, their plantations supplying all the materials, except cotton, which is imported from North Carolina, spun and put up in bales. Wool is carded by machines in the county, and spun by hand. The weaving is done on the common hand-loom. House furniture, of nearly all kinds, is manufactured in the county. Saddles, boots, shoes, iron-work, etc., is also done here. Lumber of the finest quality, may here be had, for the trouble of cutting it.

When speaking of the loss attending home manufactures I have been more than once told, that "this kind of work is done by women when they could do nothing else." To such, I again say, if I have made a correct statement, they had better cease labor. Beside, I have yet to find a woman who can do nothing else but weave and spin. Why send our children to school, if their mothers have time to educate them? We should at least save tuition fee. Let the education of our youths be intrusted to women, and I venture to

affirm, that they will become as learned and pious, as under the instruction of men. Woman is eminently qualified to instill christianity in the plastic minds of children; and her very nature fits her to enter into the sympathies of childhood, when men disregard them. It is time that the yardstick, tapestring, and rule, be transferred into their hands, and the masculine part of the race betake themselves to pursuits more manly, and better calculated to develop the talents God has given them.

I would not be called an advocate for petticoat government, but I would make woman my equal and restore to her, her natural rights. I would have her share, in common with man, the business transactions of life, and thus afford her fields of labor in which to develop her god-like faculties. To see a feminine, soft-handed clerk measuring lace, while a rosy-cheeked girl is chopping wood to make him a fire, induces me to think man has forgotten from whence he sprung.

## CHAPTER X.

## EDUCATION.

THE following article is the substance of a report made by Mr. Rufus Brittain, a competent teacher of this county, to the Jeffersonville Historical Society. It is so true that no apology is needed here for inserting it. I presume that few will be found who will dissent from his opinions.

Yet, I fear, few there are, as ready to act as Mr. Brittain. A thousand reasons might be adduced for properly educating the children of this county, and from signs now becoming visible, it is to be hoped that many years will not elapse before Tazewell will be ranked foremost in this best of causes. To properly educate the children of the county between the ages of six and twenty years, we need upward of seventy school-houses. We have now about fifteen, which are better suited for barns than seats of learning.

The increased interest now manifesting itself for the cause of popular education, is mostly among the younger persons. The present generation must pass away before we can expect a general diffusion of knowledge.

Mr. Brittain says :

“ This cause, so important to the best interests of every well-regulated community, has not heretofore, in this section, received that attention it deserves : and as a natural consequence of this neglect, we find the county sadly deficient in the

means of training up the children of her citizens for stations of honor and usefulness.

“By the returns of the last census, it is found that out of 3,317 persons in the county over twenty-one years of age, 1490 are unable to read and write. This is indeed a deplorable picture of the intelligence of our county, and might well cause every intelligent man in it to blush with shame, were it not that we find some excuse for this ignorance when we consider the situation of the greater portion of our population, scattered as it is over a wide extent of country, and laboring under great disadvantages for maintaining schools.

“The early settlers of this region had many difficulties to encounter in their efforts to procure homes for themselves and their children, and too frequently education appears to have been of but secondary importance in their estimation. Yet primary schools of some sort seem to have been maintained from an early date after its settlement, in those neighborhoods where children were sufficiently numerous to make up a school, and parents were able and willing to support a teacher. Instances, also, have not been wanting where families not situated so as to unite conveniently with others, yet appreciating the advantages of a good school, have employed teachers to instruct their children at home, and thus afforded them privileges of which the children of their less enlightened neighbors were deprived. But of later years, since portions of the county have become more densely populated, and in various ways much improved, the cause of education here has not kept pace with that improvement, for even in those parts

of the county best able to maintain schools, no permanent provision has been made for their continuance : and in those schools that generally have been best supported, long intervals between sessions so frequently occur, that pupils forget much of what they had acquired during their attendance ; and thus the little time spent by many in school is spent under the greatest disadvantage for the proper development of their intellectual faculties. Teachers, as might be supposed, under these circumstances, together with the fact that their compensation is usually very moderate, are often incompetent for the task they have assumed, both as respects talents and acquired qualifications. And though under these circumstances good teachers are sometimes obtained, yet most generally in such cases the office is only assumed as an available stepping-stone to some other and more profitable pursuit. Indeed, it would be unreasonable to expect persons to prepare themselves for the proper discharge of the onerous duties of a primary school-teacher, unless they hoped to receive some adequate reward for their services.

“ Now in consideration of the state of our schools, and the deplorable ignorance in which the children of our county are in danger of growing up, it must be evident to all who think properly on these subjects, that we need to adopt and carry out some efficient school system, by means of which, our schools shall be made more permanent, and sufficient inducements be held out to command and retain the services of competent and well qualified teachers : and that the means of a good primary education be brought within the reach of every



child in the community, and for those who desire it and excel in the branches taught in primary schools, that opportunities be afforded to acquire a knowledge of the higher branches of a good English and scientific education.

“ These important objects, our schools, as now conducted, fail to accomplish, and the state school-fund for the education of indigent children, is in a great measure wasted, as by its regulations, it must depend chiefly on the schools as they now exist.

“ But the legislature of the state has provided a Free School System, which if adopted and carried out with proper energy and in an enlightened manner, these noble objects, in a great measure, might be attained. In order to its adoption the law requires a vote in its favor of two-thirds of the legal votes of the adopting district or county. Such a vote, we fear, could not be obtained here, until some effort is made to enlighten our citizens on the subject of education and school systems; and show them the advantages that would accrue to themselves and their children by having the latter furnished with the proper means of moral and intellectual culture. There would also be a variety of difficulties to encounter in the execution of this Free School System. In some portions of the county the population is quite sparse, and a sufficient number of children could not be included within a convenient school district. This difficulty, however, has no remedy under our present method of keeping up the schools, unless families thus isolated are able to employ teachers to instruct their children at home. But if schools were established in these thinly-set-

tled districts, by taking in boundaries large enough to furnish a sufficient number of children to each, and some efforts made to overcome the inconvenience of a distant school, by conveying the children to and from school in such a manner as could best be provided : the mere fact of a good school being kept up, would be a new inducement for persons to emigrate to those districts, and in a few years the population would so much increase that a school could be made up within convenient bounds. This system, also, being chiefly dependent on funds raised for its support by taxation, might meet with great opposition from those who have a higher appreciation of the value of money than they have of intelligence ; and, again, others who are possessed of large amounts of taxable property and few or no children to send to school, may think it oppressive, unless convinced that it is the duty of every state or community to educate, or furnish the means to educate, the children of its citizens. In a republican government like ours, the permanence of which evidently depends on the virtue and intelligence of its citizens, it might be deemed unnecessary to demonstrate the importance of every child being properly instructed and furnished with the means of acquiring that knowledge which will fit him to perform the duties incumbent on a citizen of a free and enlightened country. Yet there are too many who are slow to perceive or acknowledge the importance of good schools, and the necessity of being at some trouble and expense to keep them up. Hence all patriotic and intelligent members of the community who have tasted the blessings of an education, or felt the want of one,

should co-operate with each other, and use their influence for the improvement of our schools, and the increase of the virtue and intelligence of our citizens."

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## CHAPTER XI.

### SLAVERY IN TAZEWELL.

Did my limits admit it, I should enter into a lengthy detail of this institution as it exists in this county. This institution has long been denounced by the northern presses, and generally, greatly misrepresented. It has been contended that the slaves of the south are barbarously treated, ill-fed, poorly clothed, worked hard, and kept in ignorance. These assertions are not true, and the every-day experience of any southern man, will bear me out in the declaration. True it is, that a few masters are tyrannical, but these are altogether exceptions, and should not be looked on as a necessary feature of the institution. These calumnies have been heaped upon us by men, many of whom, have seen but few or no slaves, and are consequently ignorant of the real state of slavery in the south.

They have been borne with a patience, which at once portrays the magnanimity, and patriotic devotedness of southern men to the Union. A few irascible politicians have cried out dissolution and secession, but the feeling has never

been general in the south, nor is it likely to be, if the general government continues to carry out the designs of the constitution. There are, it is known, many highly intellectual and virtuous citizens of the northern states, as well as many respectable presses, who discountenance this abuse. It is generally the rabble, and foreigners, who keep up the excitement.

The insulting and degrading course of northern and western fanatics, has been the cause of introducing stricter discipline among the slaves. The ardent desires of abolitionists are thus rendered still more hopeless. Anti-slavery societies have, in a few instances, sent missionaries, under the guise of Christianity, to decoy off our slaves; and have sometimes been the means of causing the slaves to shed the blood of their masters, for which they will have to account in the day of general reckoning up. Were the people of the free states to come among us, and examine slavery as it really exists, they would no longer countenance the depredations of their fellow citizens; which, if not stopped, must ultimately result in a dissolution of the bonds of union, sealed by the blood of our fathers. Then civil war, and a total and merciless extermination of the African race, with all its dire consequences, would inevitably follow. Southern character has been mistaken by northern men; let them inform themselves and assist us in our labors to make this nation, as it should be, the seat of freedom, industry, and religion. The slavery of the south, is infinitely preferable to the degrading, antirepublican slavery and bondage, and poverty, and misery

of the north. Show me so great a slave as the northern factory girl! Show me in the kitchen, or negro hut of the southern planter, the misery, and poverty, and hunger, which is to be met with among the poor widows, and orphans, and *free* negroes of the north! Show me that southern master, who has ever refused his servant bread: for every one shown, I will show ten beggars in the streets of any northern city. But it is not my purpose to write a defense of this institution; I am, however, to record facts, and such are these.

The first slaves brought to this county, were purchased by the early settlers, with ginseng. They have increased, and others have been brought from the eastern part of the state. This species of property has not, however, been found so valuable here, as in the cotton lands of the south. Hence it has been less sought after.

There were on the first of June, 1850, eleven hundred and sixteen colored persons in the county, of whom fifty-six were free negroes, leaving ten hundred and sixty slaves, worth about five hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

They are well clothed, have often as good houses as their masters, work no harder, and have the same fare. They are generally trusty, and jealous of their honor. They are acquainted with the leading movements in the political world, are moral, and many read; few write, and their reading is mostly confined to the Bible. They converse well; have much tact and judgment, and often conduct the farming operations. They are generous, kind, and seem much devoted to their masters. Such are the slaves of Tazewell county.

And yet abolition societies send out men to persuade them to leave their homes of peace and plenty, where want and care are unknown, and make their way to *free states*, where they are really less respected, and where hunger, cold, and nakedness ever await them. To the northern fanatics I would say, as the great Master said: "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

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## CHAPTER XII.

### AGRICULTURE.

As I am writing for the information of the people of the county, most of whom are farmers, I trust I shall be forgiven if I am apparently verbose on this most interesting of subjects. The historian, I believe, is an annalist, with the privilege of giving his own opinion upon matters of which he writes. Of this latter license I shall avail myself, and hope I shall not entirely fail to interest.

Since by the labors of the husbandman we all live, either directly or indirectly, and upon the productive energy of the soil does not only our own existence but that of every animated creature upon the face of the earth depend, I shall not be accused of a stretch of the imagination, if I say, that mankind could better afford to give up every art and science than

that of tilling the soil. Nor is it in the power of any man to picture the distresses which would follow a single failure of the earth to "bring forth." Scarcely a man will be found who would deny the above inferences; yet it will be equally as hard to find one who seems to appreciate the great necessity of renovating the soil, and bestowing agricultural educations upon her people.

I care not how viewed, whether in a political, religious, civil, useful, or physical light, all other arts are subservient to this; and none so worthy of our attention. I verily believe that the very existence and perpetuation of our Republic depends upon the successful cultivation of the soil. There is a moralizing influence attending the labors of the farmer, to be found nowhere else. No occupation that has yet appeared or been followed among men, seems so well calculated to develop the mind, or foster the principles of virtue as this. In order to the successful cultivation of the ground, a general knowledge of many of the arts and sciences is necessary. To develop the physical powers, and insure a healthy body, and a consequent healthy mind, agriculture seems peculiarly adapted.

Under a false idea that honor was alone attached to the so-called "learned professions," the occupation of "farmer" has been too much neglected; but agriculture stretches out her collateral arms, and embraces the labors of even these, which she appropriates to her legal domain. Astronomy and chemistry are her tools, while botany, or vegetable physiology is her offspring, to whose growth she yearly adds her treasures.

Meteorology is her handmaid. Political economy is proud to obey her, while commerce and navigation, without her fostering hand, would sicken and pine in their infancy.

This false idea should be exploded. We need educated farmers who would seek to place the soil in such a state as to make it produce to its utmost extent. There are, perhaps, fewer scientific men engaged in this occupation than in any other; yet no occupation requires so many. European countries have lately turned their attention to this subject through sheer necessity. The attention which our government is now paying to the subject, leads me to look for an entire revolution in agricultural matters in less than fifty years.

The agencies and improvements now acting, will tend to bring about this state of things. The proximity to each other, induced by the rail-car, will cement more closely the interest of the farming community of this extended land, and open up inducements hitherto unknown, especially in the isolated region of Tazewell. The press, sending forth its sheets from Maine to California, before they are fairly dry, and the astonishing workings of the telegraph are now exhibiting their influence upon the machinery of civil society, and in no country more perceptibly than in the United States.

Give us railroads, and let the press make known the claims of south-western Virginia, and the "gee up" of the New England plowboy will soon be heard upon our mountain sides. Our mountaineers will soon be seen trading in Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. Our



neglected fields will bloom under the hands of scientific agriculturists, till wagons will no more be seen passing westward with men to build up new states on the ruins of those they have left.

I now proceed to point out briefly the history and peculiarities of agriculture in Tazewell. Among the early settlers, and even in the present day, a sufficiency of provisions alone seems to be sought after. Large quantities of land—too large for the force employed—are cultivated, and this very system of having too much land in a farm, has retarded the agricultural advancement of the county of Tazewell more than any other one cause. By endeavoring to cultivate so much land, it has been imperfectly worked, and hence the soil does not yield to the husbandman her proper stores.

The manner, too, of cultivation, is similar to that practiced by the early settlers. And I hope I shall be pardoned for saying that the people of Tazewell who cultivate the soil, work less than most any other similar community to be found in the United States. This may be owing to the want of proper markets, which will not be much improved till our farmers turn their attention to internal improvements, and no longer vote against the construction of railroads and turnpikes.

Most of the cereals do well in Tazewell. I have in my possession a stalk of corn, grown on common upland, sixteen feet nine inches high; four stalks grew in a hill; it was planted in May, and cut up in September. Irrigating the

lands is much neglected. Wheat does exceedingly well in this county, especially those kinds known as Mediterranean, walker, and white chaff: but as no market is afforded for its sale, more is not grown than is consumed, there being only 28,220 bushels reported on the census books for 1850. (See table.)

The county is more remarkable for its production of grasses than anything else. Though tobacco does very well, fortunately, its culture has been discarded, the county not producing 1,000 pounds per annum.

The exceedingly fine grasses of the county have made it decidedly a grazing county, and much celebrated for fine stock. Blue-grass (*Poa pretensis*) is the principal native (!) grass: though timothy, herd, and most others do well. In no country does clover succeed better. The grasses have received much of the farmer's attention, and with the increasing interest shown in improving the live-stock, it would seem that the county is destined to take a prominent stand among the stock-raising counties in the state. There are some farms in the county well improved, but they are too few.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## CHURCH HISTORY—JUDICIARY.

No portion of my labors, if properly investigated, would be more interesting than this: yet the paucity of material afforded me, makes it quite difficult to give anything like a correct and full church history of this section. The principal denominations in the county are Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics; each of whom will be noticed.

The first sermon preached in the county was in 1794, by Rev. Mr. Cobbler, appointed to the New River circuit, by the Baltimore conference. This sermon may be regarded as the budding of Methodism in Tazewell county. The seeds sown by this good man fell upon a genial soil, and he had the satisfaction of seeing Jeremiah Witten and Mrs. Sarah Witten, William Witten and his lady, John and Sarah Peery, Elizabeth Greenup, Samuel Forguson, Isabella Forguson, and two colored persons, flock around the Christian standard, determined that Christ should not be forgotten, even in the mountain-gorges of the wild "backwoods."

Thomas Peery gave them a piece of land, and in 1797 they built a meetinghouse about one mile west of Jeffersonville.

Between 1794-7, meetings were generally held at the house of Samuel Forguson, near the present seat of justice. Before 1794, prayer-meeting was the only form of worship practiced:

this seems to have been coexistent with the earliest settlement. The march of Methodism has been steadily onward; they have, at present, seven churches in regular fellowship.

The first Baptists in the county, were the Scaggs and Hankins. The first sermon preached to them, was by Rev. Simon Cotterel from Russel county, in 1796. Their first meetings were held in private houses, in the Hankins' settlement. The Baptists seem not to have made as rapid progress as the Methodists; as they have now only two regular churches in the county. I have been unable to learn the number of communicants, but understand that it is greater than would be supposed from the number of churches.

The first Presbyterians in the county were William Peery, Samuel Walker, and his wife. Prof. Doak preached the first sermon to them, somewhere about 1798. He was soon followed by Rev. Mr. Crawford, from Washington county. The first church organized was in the Cove, in 1833, which was placed in charge of Rev. Dugald McIntyre, assisted by Rev. Mr. Mc Ewin. This church, from some cause, was suffered to go down, and the Presbyterians were without a regular church till the summer of 1851, when a church was organized at Jeffersonville, and placed in charge of Rev. Mr. Naff. They have one church, and about twenty communicants.

At what time the first Roman Catholics appeared in the country, is not known. Edward Fox, a priest who resided at Wythville, preached the first sermon to them in a union church at Jeffersonville, in 1842. He continued to preach, at intervals, till the close of the controversy between him, and

President Collins of Emory and Henry College. Having been beaten from every position, he quit Wytheville, and consequently the Tazewell Catholics were left without a priest. Bishop Whelan coming to this section of the state, took occasion to visit his flock in Tazewell; the Methodists opened their pulpit for him, and in acknowledgment of their kindness, one of his first sentences was not only to insult them, but the house of God. He remarked, he "*felt embarrassed because he was preaching in an unconsecrated house.*" President Collins, who had firmly opposed the spread of this doctrine in south-western Virginia, being in the neighborhood, heard of the occurrence and replied to him in a few days. Notwithstanding this, Catholicism began to spread, and preparations were made for building a cathedral, which is now in course of construction.

## JUDICIARY.

The formation of the county, necessarily caused some derangement in the courts. The magistrates who had been acting under the authority of Wythe county, however, met in May, 1800, and held the first court at the present residence of Col. John B. George. John Ward was elected clerk, and Major Maxwell made sheriff. In the following month the election for county officers came off, and the court was opened at Harvey G. Peery's house. In June the county seat was fixed upon, and Judge Brockenborough held the first circuit court in a court-house built of buckeye logs, for which the county paid ten dollars. Peter Johnson was now appointed

to fill the station of resident judge: James Thompson was the first commonwealth's attorney. The Buckeye C. H. was soon converted into a workshop, and a plain frame-house substituted. The court-house is now a substantial brick building. Court days, Wednesday after the fourth Monday of each month.

In connection with this subject, it may be remarked, that a trial for murder has never taken place in this county, and fewer lawsuits, according to the population, occur in our courts than any county in the state.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### LITERARY AND BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—NEWSPAPERS.

THE Jeffersonville Historical Society, is the only literary institution in the county. It was founded August 14th, 1851, through the exertions of H. F. Peery, M. D., and the author. The movement was warmly supported by John Wynn, Thos. Peery, Rees T. Bowen, William Cox, H. R. Bogle, William Barnes, William Henry Maxwell, and other leading gentlemen in the county, who seemed to be fully awakened to the necessity of exciting in the community a spirit of literary culture. The following remarks are taken from the Richmond Examiner of 16th January, 1852:

"The recent excitement of railroad subjects in southwestern Virginia, seems to have been the means of calling

public attention to the subject of literary culture in this section of the state. The citizens of Tazewell, one of the most isolated counties of the commonwealth, are taking a prominent stand in this cause. The establishment of the Jeffersonville Historical Society, in a wild, mountainous country, would seem to indicate something more of its citizens, as patrons of literature, than has heretofore been supposed to exist. The society numbers already about seventy members, many of whom occupy positions not only of high civil trust, but prominent situations in the literary world.

"One principal object of this society seems to be, to preserve the history of the settlement and Indian wars of the southwestern part of Virginia—to develop its resources, and scatter knowledge among the people. A cabinet, in which will be found specimens from the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms, is attached to the institution. Also, a library containing the principal works which could assist in researches either upon the Indians, who at a former period inhabited this section, their manners and customs, or upon the natural history of the county. The society receives papers upon most subjects which throw light upon the best means of promoting the interests of this section of the state. \* \* \*

"Whether this society may be able to effect any good, cannot be answered till more time has been allowed for the development of its labors. Certain it is, however, that if the society publish their reports, as they most likely will, and they are read by the people of south-western Virginia, some good must be done." \* \* \* \* \*

There is a moral influence attending the existence of such associations, which cannot be otherwise than sanitary. The very fact of the existence of such an institution, will incite the surrounding community to prepare themselves to share in its labors. This society embraces most of the prominent farmers in the county, and is likely to stretch its arms out over the respectable of all classes, and indirectly, if not directly, they will become laborers in the association, and thus interested in its prosperity.

Say ten gentlemen are asked to furnish a report upon the natural history of the black perch; ten more upon the culture of the grape-vine; ten more upon the amount of iron ore, and extent of coal-fields; ten more upon the kinds of roads best adapted to our hill country; ten more upon some subject in geology, or mechanics, or agriculture, or botany, or any other subject coming within the range of the institution. What will be the effect? why this—the gentlemen will procure the works which treat of the respective subjects on which they are required to report, and study them. It is readily seen that in a few years, they will become, more or less, familiar with the principal sciences; and as the acquisition of knowledge engenders a want of more, in a few years we shall have a reading population, who will begin to act upon some efficient means of educating the rising generation. Nor is this all, the annual exhibitions or fairs will incite a more lively interest in excelling in agriculture, mechanics, etc. This is too apparent to need elucidation.

A desire to excite this society to a sense of the important



work before them and to furnish an index to Tazewell has resulted in this history.

The most important *benevolent* institution is that of the *Independent Order of Oddfellows*, a lodge of whom, was established at Jeffersonville, by G. M., Jas. Mc Cabe, 6th December, 1850. The lodge numbers about forty-five members, and is designated as Floyd Lodge No. 84.

The *Sons of Temperance* have a division, being the one hundred and fifth in the state, which numbers some eighty or ninety members. There is also a division of the "Sons" at Bluestone, and another at Liberty Hill. The former of the three, was established at Jeffersonville in 1848; the second, at Bluestone, was established in the summer of 1850; that at Liberty Hill, in 1851. These three divisions have done much good in reforming the people.

A Circle of the Brotherhood of the Union, encircled in the H. F., was established at Jeffersonville 4th July, 1850, and is known as Independence Circle, B. U. (H. F.) C. A. 131-4. This institution numbers about twenty members, and is calculated to do much good in the cause of reform. In the summer of 1850, a lodge of Masons was also established at this place. So there are four secret societies existing in this town, and if their designs be carried out, much good may be expected in the way of social progress.

Their influence is plainly perceivable at Jeffersonville. Few villages or places in the United States present so much good feeling and brotherly love—so much sound morality, and so extensively diffused, or so little suffering. There is

less backbiting, wrangling, and ill-will among the people of Jeffersonville, than any village to be found in the state; nor is it a bad feature in the character of our people.

## NEWSPAPERS.

At the opening of the presidential campaign in 1847, there was not a single democratic press in south-western Virginia. The citizens of Tazewell being mostly democratic, felt the necessity of some organ through which to utter their sentiments, and called loudly for a press. Finally, Dr. H. F. Peery was prevailed on to purchase a second-hand press, then laying idle at Abingdon. He commenced the publication of the "Jeffersonville Democrat" in August, 1847, and with so much ability and zeal did the worthy editor handle his pen, that the influence of the "Democrat" was felt, to a greater or less degree, throughout south-western Virginia. A new field of labor seemed opened, and the citizens of the county seemed to fully appreciate the advantages of a press, and fostered its existence with great care. A spirit of inquiry was stirred up among the people. Education received an impetus; morality and religion began to look up, and when professional duties compelled the editor to relinquish his task, in August, 1850, there was a general murmur of complaint at the fall of the press. So urgent were the appeals of the community to the editor to again divide his labors, that he was compelled to make preparations to start the paper again. While engaged at this, he had an offer from the present editor, which was accepted, and Mr. George F. Holmes, a gentleman of ability,

and formerly professor in one of the Virginia institutions of learning, became the proprietor, and in August, 1851, commenced editing the "South-Western Advocate." The paper has a circulation of about three hundred and fifty copies, and with proper caution, might be placed on a firm basis. Among the pioneer editors of south-western Virginia, few will be found to possess the tact which so eminently characterized the editor of the old "Democrat."

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## CHAPTER XV.

### MINERALS AND NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

THE minerals of this county are both numerous and important. Silver, iron, lead, arsenic, sulphur, salt, niter, gypsum, and large quantities of coal being found. I have several times been asked to examine what was thought to be gold; but have generally found it to be pyrites of iron, and sometimes sulphur.

Some attempt has been made to work a silver mine in Poor valley, about seven miles from Jeffersonville, but it was undertaken by persons unacquainted with mining, and, of course, under such circumstances, we could look for no important results.

There is also silver, but to what extent I cannot say, on a string of ridges north of Clinch river.

Iron is so abundant that it is hard to find a section destitute of it. The best specimen I ever saw, was lately placed in the cabinet of the Jeffersonville Historical Society, by Mr. Rufus Brittain. Ore, of this county, was worked at an early day, by a man named Johnson, which was pronounced to be of a good quality. The ore is, generally, specular and magnetic oxides, and would admit of being worked to advantage.

The mineral wealth of the county, will likely not be known, till there is a greater demand for it. As soon as our lands are impoverished, gypsum will be taken from the earth and scattered over them. And when the demand is sufficient, we shall manufacture large quantities of sulphur. Many saline springs exist, from which salt will be manufactured at no distant day. There is, within four miles of Jeffersonville, on the lands of Mr. Thomas Witten, every indication of a good salt stream. The county has already produced much niter.

Coal exists everywhere, though wood is so plenty that it has not been used as fuel to any extent; hence, no search has been made for it. Bituminous, and, probably, cannel coal, exist in great quantity. The nearest to Jeffersonville, that has yet been discovered, is on the lands of G. W. G. Browne, in Poor valley, about four and a half miles from Jeffersonville. It is generally thought that coal does not exist on the head branches of Clinch river, but I imagine the supposition has no foundation. It has been found below, and in every direction around, and no doubt, exists generally

through the county. When shall we have an outlet for this coal?

## NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

There are, in the county, many natural curiosities, such as caves, precipices, bone caverns, etc. A cave, running under Rich mountain, has excited some curiosity. I am informed, by Mr. Thompson, who has explored it, that it is one of the most magnificent caves in the country, as yet known. The ceiling, in some places, being so high, that the best torch light will not discover it; nor will a stone, thrown from the hand, reach it. A fine stream flows through it, in which fish are said to exist. It is nearly destitute of those rugged cliffs, usually to be found in such places.

During winter, vast numbers of bats (*Oreillard insectivora*) are to be seen; some, fastening themselves to the ceiling, are seized on by others, and these again by others, till they sometimes form lengthy bunches, resembling a swarm of bees after they have pitched. On placing the flame of a candle near them, they set up a piteous cry, which is generally plaintive enough to divert the destroyer's hand. It would be an endless task, to give a description of half the caves to be found in the county. There is much sameness about them. They are, frequently, the receptacle of vast numbers of human bones, of an extraordinary size, and thought to be those of an extinct race, formerly inhabiting this region.

Stalactites\* are usually found in these caves, many of which

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\* From *stalazo*, to drop. Water, holding lime in solution, drops regularly at

are beautiful. It is said that a cave, near Liberty Hill, exhibits the prints of human feet, in the solid rocks : this may, or may not be true, for I never had bravery enough to take pleasure in examining caverns. If they are really to be seen, I think they may be accounted for, by supposing that some miner, in search of niter, had entered and left his tracks upon the mould usually to be found in such places. The abundance of iron existing in some kinds of clay, seems to keep the lapidifying, or rock-making process, constantly progressing, so that what were mere tracks in the clay, sixty years ago, may now be impressions in solid rock. In confirmation, I beg to mention the following incident, related to me by Mr. William Thompson, a worthy citizen of the county. In 1805, Mr. Thompson killed a snake, which was thrown in a hollow, or bottom, on a large, exposed stratum of rock. Heavy rains caused the submersion of the rock, and when the water dried up, it was found that the rock was covered several inches in clay. In 1813, or eight years after, the clay was washed off by heavy rains, and behold, there was the serpent, which had become a part of the rock, as may be seen to this day. I ask, if some of our scientific gentlemen had seen this snake, without knowing the circumstances, would they not most likely have pronounced it an antediluvian work? That this conclusion of the present progress of lapidification is true, I offer another example. There are, in the

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one place, and deposits the lime in long rods, often hollow ; these are called stalactites.

northern part of the county, rocks bearing the impressions of buffalo tracks, too plain to be mistaken.

*Petrifactions* constitute no small share of our natural curiosities. I have elsewhere referred to a spring, in the northern part of the county, having the property of petrifying. In the western part of the county, about eighteen miles from Jeffersonville, is a location where great quantities of petrified turtles, snakes, lizards, etc., etc., are found. On the road leading to Abingdon, at what is known as Thompson's Gap, petrified or fossil ducks, frogs, and a variety of other reptiles were found, when grading the road across the mountain. Fossil remains are so abundant that it is useless to attempt to describe them. At Maiden Spring, on the lands of the Messrs. Bowens, are limestone rocks containing great quantities of fishes. I have in my possession the major part of a fish much resembling a dolphin, which is pure flint of hardest texture.

While searching for Indian paintings on Paint Lick mountain, in company with Col. Rees T. Bowen, we discovered a thin stratum of Medina sandstone, composed almost entirely of fossil fucoids. The larger and less solid parts of the stems are not so well preserved. We traced the stratum about one and a half miles, along the mountain, and know not how much farther it may extend. I suppose the stratum to be about two hundred feet below the surface, with an inclination of 60°. It can be reached only by entering the clefts of the mountain. Myself and the Col. were fatigued, and accidentally sat down to rest near a cleft from which a

few fragments of the rock had broken, and rolled down the mountain side. The discovery of a small piece, led us into the search; specimens of this rock may be seen in the cabinet of the Historical Society. As I have been often asked to account for this collection of fucoids, perhaps the most remarkable in the world, I beg to offer the following remarks, premising, that as I am not writing for the information of geologists in particular, I shall avoid technicalities:

*Fucoides Harlani* is only one species of the family *Algae*. It occurs almost invariably in, and is, therefore, a type of, Medina sandstone. The stratum here referred to, is found upon the ridge of the Alleghany or Appalachian chain of mountains during their whole course, and even farther than these extend. It is to be found in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, N. Carolina, Georgia, and many other sections remote from this chain of mountains.

Let us suppose that at a remote period, the surface of the earth was nearly level, and, as is most likely true, the sea covered the continent, and that the *Fucoides Harlani*, which is a native of the sea (hence its common name, seaweed), was beaten down by the force of the waves, or dying, became specifically too heavy to keep upon the surface. It was then deposited on the bottom of the sea, and other matter depositing itself over this, it became lapidified; and upon the lapidification of other strata, in the course of a long series of years, the *Fucoides Harlani* became an under stratum; and hence we find it now deep in the bowels of the earth. Then, the same convulsion of nature which caused the upheaving of the mountains, raised this stratum to its present elevated position, which is about 1400 feet above the bed of the Clinch river.



## CHAPTER XVI.

## WATERS.

THE waters of Tazewell are both numerous, and of fine quality. White, blue, red, salt, sweet and warm sulphur springs; chalybeate, iodureted, carbonated, alum, lime, and freestone springs are abundant. Perhaps no county in the state exhibits such a variety of waters as this; yet so little has been done to inform the valetudinarian of our mineral waters, that they are almost a useless appendage to our county. In truth, mineral waters are so common, that it excites no interest to speak of them. Only a few of our springs have been analyzed, a circumstance to be regretted.

The Tazewell White Sulphur springs, now owned by Thos. H. Gillespie, are four miles west of Jeffersonville. Those wishing to spend a season in retirement, can find no more suitable place than at the Tazewell White Sulphur. When I say *retirement*, I do not mean that they will see no one else, or never hear the enlivening ring of the violin, for a considerable number are to be found here every season; the dance is assumed at the pleasure of the company; in fact, most amusements usually found at watering-places, are here offered to the visitor. But the visitors are mostly ladies and gentlemen from the adjoining counties, who are seeking to restore lost health, rather than to find pleasure. The little expense, the

good fare, the beauty of the mountain scenery, the purity and salubrity of the air, the excellent quality of the water, and conveniences of the establishment, render it at once attractive to the valetudinarian.

Six miles east of Jeffersonville, are Taylor's springs. Here, as at the Holston springs, are a variety of waters; six kinds, clearly different, rise from as many springs within a few feet of each other.

There is a spring in Baptist valley, about eighteen miles west of the C. H., belonging to Mr. Spotts, somewhat impregnated with alum. When I examined this spring, it had but a short time before been cleaned out, and had rather an earthy taste—the water is strongly tintured with iron, a circumstance which has led some to question the existence of alum in it at all. There is, however, a small quantity of alum, yet not enough to render the springs notable.

A spring, said to contain iodine, rises upon the lands of Mr. Crockett, near Jeffersonville.

A sweet spring, without any trace of sulphur, but containing much iron, breaks out from the south side of Clinch mountain, in the Poor valley; but as few know even its location, its medicinal properties have not been properly tested. It is known to be highly cathartic, and my guide to its location, declares it cured him of dropsy when the physicians failed. It was a very cold day in winter, and the snow falling fast, when I visited it, so my observations were imperfect.

Springs slightly salty are so common, that no attention has

been paid to them. Their existence might yet prove to be the index to the existence of vast quantities of salt.

I am informed by Mr. Wynn, that a warm spring gushes from the base of Round mountain, in the south-east corner of the county, and that on the summit of the mountain, there is a spot the temperature of which is so high, that snow never lies on it half an hour after its fall, and generally melts while falling.

That kind of water used for culinary and ordinary purposes, is more important, however, to the people of the county, than any other; I mean the common blue limestone. This kind of water is used in all parts of the county, except that which is drained by the Sandy river. This blue limestone water has only one objection: it is rather hard, and is thought, by some, to operate to the injury of both the digestive and urinary organs. (See further remarks upon this opinion, in the chapter on General Health.)

The springs usually have a temperature of 45° to 50° Fahr., during the summer, and about the same in winter. The average for a summer and a winter month was 49° Fahr. Except in a few instances, the occurrence of heavy rains, seems to affect the amount of water discharged, very slightly. I think that the quantity of lime in our water is, perhaps, less than in some other sections in the south-west. To the taste, no water can excel ours; it is true, that when persons formerly in the habit of using freestone water, commence using ours, it proves pleasantly aperient; this is owing to the presence of magnesia.

## HEALTH OF TAZEWELL.

This county is not at present so healthy as one would suppose from its character in other respects. This, I imagine, may be easily accounted for. One of the most prominent causes of disease in any mountain country, where disease prevails, will be found to be the want of comfortable buildings. Some are too close—others too open—others want light, and others are too damp. The country being incapable of producing malaria, is, of course, exempt from miasmatic diseases. The only disease worthy of particular notice, is what is known among our physicians as typhoid fever, but which will most generally answer to some form of pneumonia. It seems to be generated entirely from exposure, and does not assume a serious form except in inclement seasons.

Here is to be met with a greater variety of disease than I have anywhere seen. The quality of the water may account for the numerous cases arising from derangement of the digestive apparatus. I know that my position will be disputed by those who have cherished, from their cradles, the idea that no waters are so healthy as those of the mountains; yet, this should not prevent me from stating my opinions, and the reasons why I entertain them.

There are living in the town of Jeffersonville, five physicians, who get a reasonable amount of practice; and, so far as I have conversed with them, they all declare, that if the diseases arising from the digestive apparatus be discarded, that there will not remain sufficient practice for two of the five. Now what should impair

the digestion in this region more than any other, if it be not the water?

That this county, naturally, is superlatively healthy, no one will doubt; and as soon as a little more attention is paid to the laws of life, and the quality of our mountain water, we may expect to see a decided improvement. It is high time that my brethren of the grade-glass and mortar, were investigating this subject.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

### MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

UNDER such a general head, I could say but little for the information of my readers, I shall therefore, introduce several subjects, properly belonging to this place. And I must ask such of the sons and daughters of the noble people whose habits form a theme for my pen, who are either vain or proud, to forgive me for exhibiting their fathers and mothers, in such a light as I necessarily must. I too, am of these people, and hope I am as sensitive of my ancestors, as the vainest or the proudest.

The people of all mountain-countries have some customs peculiarly their own. The same pastoral simplicity which characterizes the people of the Scotch highlands, the mountainous regions of Europe, and the hill country of ancient

Judea, may be here clearly traced. The same industry, love for stock, determination to be free, hatred of oppression, pure sentiment, etc., are found here.

## DRESS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS.

That worn by the men, has already been described; that worn by the women, is well described by Dr. Doddridge, in the words, "linsey coats and bedgowns," which he says "were the universal dress of women in early times," and further suggested "that they would make a strange figure at the present day."

The garments made in Augusta, Botetourt, and other older settlements, had worn out, and a different material was brought into use. The weed now known among us as wild nettle (*Urtica dioica*), then furnished the material which served to clothe the persons of our sires and dames. It was cut down while yet green, and treated much in the same manner in which flax is now treated. The fibrous bark, with the exception of the shortness of the fibers, seemed to be adapted to the same uses. When this flax, if I may so term it, was prepared, it was mixed with buffalo hair and woven into a substantial cloth, in which the men and women were clothed. It is a true maxim, "necessity is the mother of invention."

## HOUSE FURNITURE.

"The furniture for the table, for several years after the settlement of this county, consisted of a few pewter dishes, plates, and spoons; but mostly of wooden bowls, trenchers,

and noggins. If these last were scarce, gourds and hard-shelled squashes, made up the deficiency. Iron pots, knives and forks, were brought from the east, with the salt and iron, on pack-horses."

"These articles of furniture corresponded very well with the articles of diet. 'Hog and hominy,' were proverbial for the dish of which they were the component parts. Johnny-cake and pone were, at the first settlement of the country, the only forms of bread in use for breakfast and dinner. At supper, milk and mush was the standing dish. When milk was not plenty, which was often the case, owing to the scarcity of cattle, or the want of proper pasture for them, the substantial dish of hominy had to supply the place of them; mush was frequently eaten with sweetened water, molasses, bears' oil, or the gravy of fried meat."

"In our whole display of furniture, the delft, china, and silver, were unknown. It did not then, as now, require contributions from the four quarters of the globe, to furnish the breakfast table, viz: the silver from Mexico; the coffee from the West Indies; the tea from China; and the delft and porcelain from Europe or Asia. Yet, a homely fare, and unsightly cabins and furniture, produced a hardy race, who planted the first footsteps of civilization in the immense regions of the west. Inured to hardship, bravery and labor from their early youth, they sustained with manly fortitude the fatigue of the chase, the campaign and scout, and with strong arms 'turned the wilderness into fruitful fields,' and have left to their descendants the rich inheritance of an

immense empire, blessed with peace, and wealth, and prosperity.”\*

#### THE WEDDING.

A wedding is thus described by Dr. Doddridge, and from what I have seen and can learn, a more faithful picture could not be drawn of a pioneer wedding:

“For a long time after the first settlement of this country, the inhabitants in general married young. There was no distinction of rank, and very little of fortune. On these accounts, the first impression of love, resulted in marriage, and a family establishment cost but little labor, and nothing else.

“A description of a wedding, from beginning to end, will serve to show the manners of our forefathers, and mark the grade of civilization which has succeeded to their rude state of society, in the course of a few years.

“In the first years of the settlement of a country, a wedding engaged the attention of a whole neighborhood; and the frolic was anticipated by old and young, with eager expectation. This is not to be wondered at, when it is told that a wedding was almost the only gathering which was not accompanied with the labor of reaping, log-rolling, building a cabin, or planning some scout or campaign. On the morning of the wedding-day, the groom and his attendants, assembled at the house of his father, for the purpose of reaching the home of his bride by noon, which was the usual time for celebrating the nuptials; and which, for certain reasons, must take place before dinner.

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\* Doddridge.



"Let the reader imagine an assemblage of people, without a store, tailor, or mantua-maker, within a hundred miles; and an assemblage of horses, without a blacksmith or saddler within an equal distance. The gentlemen dressed in shoe-packs, moccasins, leather breeches, leggins, linsey hunting-shirts, and all home-made. The ladies dressed in linsey petticoats, and linsey or linen bedgowns, coarse shoes, stockings, handkerchiefs, and buckskin gloves, if any. If there were any buckles, rings, buttons or ruffles, they were the relics of olden times; family pieces from parents or grandparents. The horses were caparisoned with old saddles, old bridles or halters, and pack-saddles, with a bag or blanket thrown over them: a rope or string as often constituted the girth as a piece of leather.

"The march, in double file, was often interrupted by the narrowness of our mountain paths, as they were called, for we had no roads; and these difficulties were often increased, sometimes by the good, and sometimes by the ill-will of neighbors, by falling trees, and tying grape-vines across the way. Sometimes an ambuscade was formed by the wayside, and an unexpected discharge of several guns took place, so as to cover the wedding company with smoke. Let the reader imagine the scene which followed this discharge; the sudden spring of the horses, the shrieks of the girls, and the chivalrous bustle of their partners to save them from falling. Sometimes, in spite of all that could be done to prevent it, some were thrown to the ground. If a wrist, elbow, or ankle, happened to be sprained, it was tied up

with a handkerchief, and little more was said or thought about it.

"The ceremony of the marriage preceded the dinner, which was a substantial backwoods' feast of beef, pork, fowls, and sometimes venison and bear meat, roasted and boiled, with plenty of potatoes, cabbage, and other vegetables. During the dinner, the greatest hilarity always prevailed; although the table might be a large slab of timber, hewed out with a broadaxe, supported by four sticks, set in auger-holes; and the furniture, some old pewter dishes and plates; the rest, wooden bowls and trenchers: a few pewter spoons, much battered about the edges, were to be seen at some tables. The rest were made of horn. If knives were scarce, the deficiency was made up by the scalping knives, which were carried in sheaths, suspended to the belt of the hunting-shirt. Every man carried one of them.

"After dinner the dancing commenced, and generally lasted till the next morning. The figures of the dances were three and four handed reels, or square sets and jigs. The commencement was always a square form, which was followed by what was called jigging it off; that is, two of the four would single out for a jig, and were followed by the remaining couple. The jigs were often accompanied with what was called cutting out; that is, when either of the parties became tired of the dance, on intimation, the place was supplied by some one of the company, without any interruption to the dance. In this way the dance was often continued till the musician was heartily tired of his situation. Toward the

latter part of the night, if any of the company, through weariness, attempted to conceal themselves, for the purpose of sleeping, they were hunted up, paraded on the floor, and the fiddler ordered to play 'hang out till to-morrow morning.'

"About nine or ten o'clock, a deputation of young ladies stole off the bride, and put her to bed. In doing this, it frequently happened that they had to ascend a ladder, instead of a pair of stairs, leading from the dining and ball-room to the *loft*,\* the floor of which was made of clap-boards, lying loose. This ascent, one might think, would put the bride and her attendants to the blush; but the foot of the ladder was commonly behind the door, which was purposely opened for the occasion, and its rounds, at the inner ends, were well hung with hunting-shirts, dresses, and other articles of clothing. The candles, being on the opposite side of the house, the exit of the bride was noticed but by few.

"This done, a deputation of young men, in like manner, stole off the groom, and placed him snugly by the side of his bride. The dance still continued; and if seats happened to be scarce, as was often the case, every young man, when not engaged in the dance, was obliged to offer his lap, as a seat for one of the girls; and the offer was sure to be accepted. In the midst of this hilarity, the bride and groom

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\* I have italicised this word, because, even now, the second stories of some of our most costly mansions are termed "*lofts*," by the older persons.

were not forgotten. Pretty late in the night, some one would remind the company that the new couple must stand in need of some refreshment: *black Betty*, which was the name of the bottle, was called for, and sent up the ladder; but sometimes, black Betty did not go alone. I have many times seen as much bread, beef, pork, and cabbage sent along, as would afford a good meal for half a dozen hungry men. The young couple were compelled to eat and drink, more or less, of whatever was offered.

“But to return. It often happened that some neighbors or relations, not being asked to the wedding, took offense; and the mode of revenge, adopted by them on such occasions, was that of cutting off the manes, foretops, and tails of the horses of the wedding company.

“On returning to the in-fare, the order of procession, and the race for black Betty, was the same as before. The feasting and dancing often lasted several days, at the end of which, the whole company were so exhausted with loss of sleep, that many days’ rest were requisite to fit them to return to their ordinary labors.”

I have quoted this account, written by Dr. Dodridge, because nothing could be more correct, and it was beyond my power to tell an original tale so well.

#### HUNTING.

This constituted one of the greatest amusements, and, in some instances, one of the chief employments of the early settlers. The various intrigues of a skillful hunter—such as

mimicking a turkey, owl, wolf, deer, etc.—were soon learned, and the eye was taught to catch, at a glance, the faintest impression left upon the earth by any animal. Marks, which would be, by any but a hunter, overlooked, were easily detected. The times, and ground on which deer, elk, etc., fed, were soon learned, and then the important lesson of preventing spells or enchantments by enemies, were studied; for it is a singular fact that all hunters are, more or less, superstitious. Frequently, on leaving home, the wife would throw the ax at her husband, to give him good luck. If he chanced to fail to kill game, his gun was enchanted or spelled, and some old woman shot in effigy—then a silver bullet would be run with a needle through it, and shot at her picture. To remove these spells, they would sometimes unbreech their rifles, and lay them in a clear running stream for a certain number of days. If this failed, they would borrow patching from some other hunter, which transferred all the bad luck to the lender, etc.

Game was plenty at the time this county was first settled by the whites, and accordingly, the woods furnished most of the meat. Considerable bear still exists in various parts of the county. Deer are scarce, and elk and buffalo extinct. The elk and buffalo were generally killed at the licks whither they repaired to salt themselves; and even yet, deer licks are watched with profit to the hunter.

Animals were hunted there not merely for their meat, but for their skins and furs. These served to pay for powder, lead, or anything else, being nominally the currency of the country.

Neither was hunting, the mere pastime, devoid of skill, which it now is. The hunter might be considered somewhat of a meteorologist; he paid particular attention to the winds, rains, snows, and frosts; for almost every change altered the location of game. He knew the cardinal points by the thick bark and moss on the north side of a tree, so that during the darkest and most gloomy night he knew which was the north, and so his home or camp. The natural habits of the deer were well studied; and hence he knew at what times they fed, etc. If, in hunting, he found a deer at feed, he stopped, and though he might be open to it, did not seek to obscure himself, but waited till it raised its head and looked at him. He remained motionless till the deer, satisfied that nothing moving was in sight, again commenced feeding. He then began to advance, if he had the wind of it, and if not he retreated and came up another way, so as to place the deer between himself and the wind. As long as the deer's head was down he continued to advance till he saw it shake the tail. In a moment he was the same motionless object, till it again put down its head. In this way, he would soon approach to within sixty yards, when his unerring rifle did the work of death. It is a curious fact that deer never put their heads to the ground, or raise it, without shaking the tail before so doing.

The quantity of game will be apparent when it is known that Mr. Ebenezer Brewster killed, during his life, upward of twelve hundred bears in this county. He died in the summer of 1850, and this statement occurred in an obituary notice.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## SCENERY—DIAL ROCK.

DIAL ROCK is one of the three heads of East river mountain, and is about three miles east of Jeffersonville. How it came by its name cannot be accurately determined; though tradition tells that there is, on the rock, a natural sun-dial. I shall not deny its existence, but must own that I was unable to find it when I visited the rock. These rocks are elevated in the air to about the height of fifteen hundred feet above the valley of Clinch river, which flows gently along near the base of the mountain. The ascent to the foot of the cliffs is gentle, and may be easily rode over by such as care more for themselves than their horses. Nothing remarkable exists, to attract particular attention, till the base of the naked cliffs is reached. These cliffs are from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty feet above the common level of the summit of the mountain; and seem as if some internal commotion had started them from the bowels of the earth, to awe and affright the eye that should dare look from their tops.

The first rock to the west being reached, the ascent is begun by climbing its steep and rugged sides, which, owing to the clefts is easily done. When this is done, the eye is involuntarily turned to the east, when a still more naked rock appears, towering still higher in the air, and looking still more sublime and awful. Passing on over the top of the



SCENERY FROM DIAL ROCK.





first rock, the visitor soon finds himself upon the very brink of a cleft about ten feet wide, the sides of which are perpendicular, and not far from one hundred feet deep. This must be passed, or the second rock cannot be gained. Turning now to the left or north, he finds that he may descend to the bottom of this gulf, by means of other irregular clefts breaking into it. This descent begun, and the visitor begins to feel the wild grandeur of the scene around him. Huge rocks, lying on thin scales so loosely that seemingly the slightest blow would sever the props that uphold them, and let them down with a crash, from which nothing could escape, and caverns of all shapes and sizes, filled with darkness impenetrable, seem to stand gaping for the victims of the rocks above, should they give way.

Descending into one of these dark pits, over loose rocks of immense size, from the hollows of which you expect, every moment, to see the head of a rattlesnake hissing and bidding defiance to your further progress, you find yourself soon at the bottom of the first cleft in the mountain; and then the painful and tedious ascent of the second rock begins, after which the visitor imagines all farther troubles are comparatively light. A few yards to the eastward, after the top or summit is gained, will dispel this fond hope, and instead of affording an easy passage, opens to view another cleft still more grand and awful. Here is seen the same wild confusion of rocks (themselves mountains), thrown together, as if nature had, at this place, collected the rubbish of her materials, in mountain-making. This defile must be passed

before the third rock can be scaled ; the task of which having been accomplished, the visitor finds that on and on, to the east, the cliffs rise higher and higher, and he eagerly hunts a passage of the defile that he may gain the most elevated of this beautiful yet terrific array of rocky monuments. Soon it is found, the third and fourth rocks are passed, and he finds himself, tired and thirsty, upon the summit of the fifth. A basin of clear, ice-cold water invites him to quench his thirst, and proceed to the sixth rock, from the top of which he casts his eye down the beautiful Clinch valley, when lo ! beauty indescribable presents itself. Mountains rise above mountains, in endless succession, till far in the smoky distance his vision ceases to distinguish the faint outline of the Cumberland and the Tennessee mountains. Looking to the north, he sees the great Flat-Top, from which others gradually fade into indistinctness, and imagination seems to say, There, there is the valley of the beautiful Ohio — the garden of commerce and industry. To the west rises Morris's Knob, the highest point of Rich mountain, its summit kissing the very clouds, and seeming to bid defiance to the storms of heaven. To the right, rise Paint Lick and Deskins' mountains, and nearly behind them, the rocky peaks of House and Barn mountains, in Russell county. Far in the distance are seen ranges of Clinch mountain and its various spurs. To the left is seen Wolf Creek knob, a continuation of Rich mountain. Close at hand, the rocky sides and top of Elk-horn, and far in the distance, ridges of the Alleghany range. From this beautiful scene the eye is directed down to the

valley beneath, when a disposition to shrink back is felt. The visitor now sees himself standing on the pinnacle of Dial Rock, overhanging the valley, fifteen hundred feet below him. The scene, in the distance, is beautiful beyond description. The scene around him is sublime beyond conception. It is beyond the power of the wildest imagination to picture half of its grandeur.

It is here I felt the disposition to bring the infidel, and ask him, "Is there a God?" The works of nature speak more than ten thousand printed volumes, and though innate, their eloquence is adapted to the comprehension of every tongue.

I have taken the scenery from Dial Rock, as being suited to my purpose, not because there is no view so fine, but because it is well known by persons who have visited the county. Very many such views are to be had. To appreciate the above, and the following, they must be seen.

#### A DAY IN THE MOUNTAINS.

The dawn of day found me on my feet, in the piazza of a friend (with whom I had stopped the previous night, in a beautiful valley, surrounded by lofty mountains), gazing eastward, to watch a rising sun in this region of beauty. The brilliant stars shone brightly in the western sky, while those in the east were growing dim and faint amid the gray beams of light which were shooting up from the hidden sun, and resembling the fitting lights of the icy north made permanent. As the sky became more lighted, the rough outline of the huge mountains became visible, and cast their

long shadows far down the valley in which I stood. The bright rays shooting from the morning sun, now fell upon the boughs of the forest-trees which towered above the mountains, giving to the pearly dew-drops suspended from the smaller twigs, the appearance of so many diamonds hung as ornaments on the leafless branches.

"I know of a drop where the diamond now shines,  
Now the blue of the sapphire it gives;  
It trembles—it changes—the azure resigns,  
And the tint of the ruby now lives.  
Anon the deep emerald dwells in its gleam  
'Till the breath of the south-wind goes by;  
When it quivers again, and the flash of its beam  
Pours the topaz-flame swift on the eye.  
Look, look on yon grass-blade all freshly impearl'd,  
There are all of your jewels in one:  
You'll find every wealth-purchased gem in the world  
In the dew-drop that's kissed by the sun."—E. Cook.

A part of the disc of the sun was now seen slowly rising above the summit. At this instant, the scene was beautiful beyond description; the whole top of the mountain seemed in a blaze—a moment and its beauty was lost. Aurora rose brightly above the mountains, casting her gentle beams upon the valley below. In this were many cottages, from the chimneys of which, soft columns of smoke were seen ascending in the clear, still atmosphere, presenting a scene worthy of the most refined pencil-work. Horses, cattle, and sheep, might be seen scattered over the rich meadows, while the merry notes of the cartman, and the deep-toned bay of the fox-hound, and the shrill ring of the huntsman's horn, were

heard echoing in a thousand variations, among the glens and gorges of the surrounding mountains. The tender emotions excited by the loveliness of this scene, and their deep impressions were such, as to defy the atheistical reasonings of either Thomas Paine, or of my own insensible heart. Deity was stamped upon everything.

Breakfast being over, I soon found myself upon the road, intending to visit a distant part of the county: But now, the wind had risen, and a mistiness was spreading itself over the mountain-tops. As I rode on, the heavy murmur of the winds in the timber on the mountains, convinced me that there would soon be a change of weather. None but those who have either been at sea and heard an approaching storm, or have listened to the roar of the mountain-blast, can have anything like a correct idea of this awful sound. Soon a vapory cloud was seen enveloping the mountain-summits, and in four hours it was raining in torrents. The little rippling rivulet, was now converted into the roaring mountain-torrent: how different the scene from what it was a few hours before!

Soon the wind changed to the N. E., and it became colder; presently it was in the north, and the white flakes of snow were falling thick and fast. This continued for several hours, when the wind changed to the west and it was clear. The sun was now nearing the western horizon, and casting back his bright beams upon the snow-capped mountains, which looked indescribably grand and imposing. Not a single dark spot was to be seen, but everywhere the same unsullied white mantle was thrown over them, till they looked like vast

monuments reared in the air emblematic of purity. Any attempt to describe a mountain in this State, known here as the "Budding Frost," must fall far short of correctly portraying the scene. Nothing but painting, executed in the highest style of art, can give the remotest idea of the original. I have seen something as grand, but nothing as beautiful as a mountain in this state.

In a short time the sun was seen sinking behind the western mountains, and here again was such a view, as would fix the attention of the most unobserving, and on which the artist would dwell with pleasure. The rays of light falling through the sunny crystals on the hill-tops, looked like so many brilliant pearls. A single streak of cloud shot out from behind the mountains, crimsoned with the setting sun, while its edge, or border, seemed belted with electricity itself. Though this scene was viewed from the town of Jeffersonville, where from the bustle of business, few stop to contemplate scenery, I observed crowds gazing with intense interest, and admiring the gorgeousness of a setting sun in a mountain-country.

**A P P E N D I X .**





## APPENDIX.

### TABLES.

TABLE REFERRING TO POPULATION.\*

PERSONS over 100 years of age in county, June 1, 1850,							1
"	"	90	"	"	"	"	4
"	"	80	"	"	"	"	18
"	"	70	"	"	"	"	40
"	"	60	"	"	"	"	126
"	"	50	"	"	"	"	214
"	"	40	"	"	"	"	543
"	"	30	"	"	"	"	955
"	"	20	"	"	"	"	1410
"	"	10	"	"	"	"	2281
"	under 10		"	"	"	"	3330
Slaves in the county							1060
Total, including 56 free negroes,							9932

MISCELLANEOUS TABLE.

No. of blind persons in the county . . . . .							8
"	"	deaf and dumb	.	.	.	.	13
"	"	idiots	.	.	.	.	24
"	"	paupers	.	.	.	.	24

\* The above table has been compiled from the census books for the year 1850. It is the opinion of Mr. William O. Yost, the gentlemanly marshal of  
(165)

No. over 20 years of age who can neither read nor write	1490
No. of children attending school	694
State tax on county	\$ 2000
County tax	" 786
" receives from public fund for school purposes	" 546
" cost of supporting paupers	" 605

TABLE SHOWING THE WEALTH OF THE COUNTY.

Value of lands	\$ 3,189,080,00
" " farming utensils	" 36,390,00
" " live stock	" 517,830,00
" " agricultural productions	" 226,579,95
" " mechanical productions	" 7,000,00
" " slave property	" 530,000,00
" " stock in trade	" 85,000,00
Total wealth of the county	\$ 4,581,379,95

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER ENGAGED IN PROFESSIONS, TRADES.

No of physicians in the county	10
" " lawyers	8
" " teachers	36
" " merchants	22
" " clerks	9
" " saddlers	10
" " painter	1

the county, that there was, at the time he took the census, very near 11,000 persons in the county. It was his duty, however, to report only such as were in the county on the first of June of that year.

## LIVE STOCK—KINDS AND VALUE.

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No. of printers	"	"	.	.	.	.	2
" " hatters	"	"	.	.	.	.	2
" " shoemakers	"	"	.	.	.	.	10
" " brick-masons	"	"	.	.	.	.	7
" " carpenters	"	"	.	.	.	.	41
" " millers	"	"	.	.	.	.	3
" " wagon-makers	"	"	.	.	.	.	11
" " blacksmiths	"	"	.	.	.	.	21
" " tanners	"	"	.	.	.	.	6
" " cabinet makers	"	"	.	.	.	.	18
" " gunsmiths	"	"	.	.	.	.	2
" " tailors	"	"	.	.	.	.	8
" " coopers	"	"	.	.	.	.	2
" " tavern keepers	"	"	.	.	.	.	3
" " barber	"	"	.	.	.	.	1
" " tinner	"	"	.	.	.	.	1
" " watchmaker	"	"	.	.	.	.	1
" " farmers	"	"	.	.	.	.	1922

## TABLE LIVE STOCK—KINDS AND VALUE\*

SPECIFIED KINDS.	NUMBER.	VALUE.
Horses . . .	5,150	\$ 309,000 00
Mules and asses . .	127	" 8,890 00
Milch cows . . .	4,576	" 54,840 00
Working oxen . . .	117	" 2,340 00
Other cattle . . .	10,260	" 102,600 00 .

\* There were slaughtered in the county, during the year 1850, animals to the amount of \$38,062.

SPECIFIED KINDS.	NUMBER.	VALUE.
Sheep . . . .	19,530	\$ 19,530 00
Swine . . . .	20,130	" 20,130 00
Total value live stock,		\$ 517,330 00

TABLE SHOWING VALUE OF LANDS.

KINDS ETC.	AMOUNT OF EACH.	VALUE.
Improved land . . . .	58,110 acres	\$ 696,320 00
Unimproved . . . .	220,530 "	" 441,060 00
Unentered or in large surveys . . . .	1,641,360 "	" 2051,700 00
Farm'g implements* value		" 36,390 00
Total am't of land 1920,000 value		\$8,225,470 00

TABLE SHOWING THE PRODUCTIONS OF THE COUNTY AND VALUE.†

NAME OF ARTICLES.	AMOUNT RAISED.	CASH VALUE.
Indian corn . . . .	244,430 bush.	\$ 97,772 00
Oats . . . .	124,710 "	" 31,177 75
Wheat . . . .	28,020 "	" 21,020 00
Rye . . . .	4,110 "	" 2,055 00
Irish potatoes . . . .	2,279 "	" 1,139 50
Sweet " . . . .	772 "	" 386 00
Buckwheat . . . .	3,108 "	" 1,864 80

\* I have added the value of farming implements in this table, for want of a more convenient place.

† Calculated from the census book. It is highly probable that the actual production, is considerably greater than is shown by the table.

## KINDS OF BIRDS IN TAZEWELL COUNTY.

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NAME OF ARTICLES.	AMOUNT RAISED.	CASH VALUE.
Hay . . . . .	1,824 tons	\$ 18,240 00
Grass seed . . . . .	48 bush. "	192 00
Flax . . . . .	19,350 lbs "	1,935 00
Maple sugar . . . . .	41,344 "	4,134 40
Beeswax and honey . . . . .	12,248 "	1,837 20
Tobacco . . . . .	300 "	30 00
Butter . . . . .	102,287 "	10,228 70
Cheese . . . . .	6,006 "	600 60
Wool . . . . .	25,360 "	7,606 00
Flax seed . . . . .	910 bush. "	919 00
Value of home manufactures . . . . .		25,400 00
Total value . . . . .		\$ 226,579 96

## KINDS OF BIRDS IN TAZEWELL COUNTY.

(COMMON NAME.)	(SCIENTIFIC DESIGNAT.)	(COMMON NAME.)	(SCIENTIFIC DESIGNAT.)
Common eagle . . . . .	Falco fulvus.	American robin . . . . .	T. migratorius.
Bald eagle . . . . .	F. leucocephalus.	Blackbird . . . . .	T. merula.
Turkey buzzard . . . . .	Vultur aura.	Missel thrush . . . . .	T. viscivorus.
Common owl . . . . .	Strix otus.	Mocking-bird . . . . .	T. polyglottus.
Screech owl . . . . .	Strix effraie.	Dipper . . . . .	Circus American.
Hooting owl . . . . .	Strix Syrnium.	Ant catcher . . . . .	O. Myiothenis.
Horned owl . . . . .	Bubo virginianus.	Golden thrush or	
Gos hawk . . . . .	Falco astur.	robin . . . . .	Oriolus Baltimore
Sparrow hawk . . . . .	Falco nisus.	Virginia nighting. Mat.	virginianus
Secretary . . . . .	F. serpentinus.	House wren . . . . .	Sylvia domestica.
Fly-catcher . . . . .	Muscicaph.	Winter wren . . . . .	T. hyemalis.
Cedar bird . . . . .	Bombycilla caroli-	Lark . . . . .	Alauda arvensis.
	nensis.	Cave martin . . . . .	Hirundo urbana.
Summer red-bird . . . . .	Tanagra aestiva.	Chimney swallow . . . . .	H. rustica.
Common thrush . . . . .	Turdus musicus.	Swifts . . . . .	H. cyprinus.

(COMMON NAME.)	(SCIENTIFIC DESIGNAT.)	(COMMON NAME.)	(SCIENTIFIC DESIGNAT.)
Common martin...	H. apus.	Belted kingfisher...	Alcedo alcyon.
American goat-sucker.....	Caprimulgus Am-ericana.	Golden winged woodpecker ..	Picos duratus.
Whip-poor-will ...	O. vociferus.	Red-headed wood-pecker .....	P. erythrocephalus.
Tomtit or titmouseA.	parus.	Rain crow or cuckoo	Oculus American.
Bob-o-link.....	Emperizo crysi-vore.	Wild turkey .....	A. meleagris.
Common sparrow .	Fringilla domes-tica.	Ruffed grouse or pheasant .....	Tetrao umbellus.
American goldfinch	F. tristis.	American partridge	T. ortyx.
Common snowbird	F. hyemalis.	American quail ...	Ooturnix Virginia.
Crow .....	Corvus American.	American pigeon..	Columba migro-taria.
Raven .....	C. corax.	American dove....	C. Americana.
Magpie.....	C. pica.	White crane .....	Grus Americana.
Blue jay.....	C. cristatus.	American woodcock	Scolopax minor.
Great crow black-bird .....	Quiscalus major.	Snipe .....	S. gallinago.
Humming bird....	Trochilus colubris.	Water hen .....	F. gallinula.
Common bee eater.	Merops apiaster.	Wild goose .....	A. anser.
Duck (several kind)	Anas.		

TABLE SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL KINDS OF FISH FOUND IN  
TAZEWELL.

(COMMON NAME.)	(SCIENTIFIC DESIGNATION.)	(LENGTH AND WEIGHT.)
Salmon.....	Salmo salar .....	2 to 4 ft. .... 20 to 30 lbs.
Trout.....	Salmo faris.....	1 1/2 to 2 ft. .... 8 to 14 lbs.
Pike .....	Esox lucius.....	3 to 5 ft. .... 15 to 20 lbs.
Perch.....	Perca fluviatilis.....	1 to 2 ft. .... 10 to 16 lbs.
Minnow.....	Cyprinus astronasses...	1 to 3 in. .... 1 to 4 oz.
Flounder.....	Ploleto flesus.....	6 to 15 in. .... 1 to 2 lbs.
Common eels.....	Anguilla.....	2 to 4 ft. .... 3 to 6 lbs.
Hag.....	Myxine.....	4 to 6 in. .... 1/2 to 10 oz.
Lamprey.....	Petromyzon fluviatilis..	16 to 20 in. .... 1 to 1 1/2 lbs.
Sucker.....	Catfish.....	.....

## TABLE SHOWING THE KINDS OF ANIMALS FOUND IN THE COUNTY.

(COMMON NAME.)	(SCIENTIFIC DESIGNATION.)	(COMMON NAME.)	(SCIENTIFIC DESIGNATION.)
Horse.....	Equus.	Flying squirrel....	Pteronys.
Ass.....	E. asiaticus.	Sq'el (sev'l kinds)	Sciurus.
Mule.....		Opossum .....	Didelphis virgin.
Elk.....	Cervus alces.*	Common cat.....	Felis catus.
Domestic goat....	Capra hircus.	Panther.....	F. parens.
Domestic sheep...	Avis aries.	Fox.....	Canis vulpus.
Common ox.....	Bos taurus.	Domestic dog....	C. familiaris.
Buffalo.....	B. Americanus.*	Wolf.....	C. lupus.
Stag.....	Cervus elephas.	Otter.....	Lutra vulgaris.
Hog.....	Sus.	Weasel.....	Mustela vulgaris.
Rabbit.....	Lepus cuniculus.	Polecat.....	M. putorius.
Beaver.....	Castor fiber.	Black bear.....	Ursus americana.
Water mouse.....	Mus amphibius.	Raccoon.....	Pereyon.
Field mouse.....	M. aricola.	Mole.....	Lalpa.
Mouse.....	M. musculus.	Long-eared bats...	Oreillard.
Domestic rat.....	M. rattus.		

## LIST OF GENTLEMEN WHO HAVE REPRESENTED THE COUNTY IN THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

Thomas Witten, David Ward,	1800-1.
Thomas Witten, David Ward,	1801-2.
Henry Bowen, John Grills,	1802-3.
Henry Bowen, James Thompson,	1803-4.
William Neal, James Thompson,	1804-5.
Andrew Peery, James Thompson,	1805-6.
Andrew Peery, James Thompson,	1806-7.
John Cecil, James Thompson,	1807-8.
John Cecil, James Thompson,	1808-9.

\* Extinct.



John Ward, James Thompson,	. . .	1809-10.
John Ward, James Thompson,	. . .	1810-11
John Ward, J. D. Peery,	. . .	1811-12.
Rees B. Thompson, James Thompson,	. . .	1812-13.
Rees B. Thompson, James Thompson,	. . .	1813-14.

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John B. George, Rees B. Thompson,	. . .	1816-17.
John B. George, Thomas Harrison,	. . .	1817-18.
Thomas Peery, John B. George,	. . .	1818-19
Henry P. George, William Gillespie,	. . .	1819-20.
Hervey P. George, William Shannon,	. . .	1820-21.
John B. George, Jas. C. Davidson,	. . .	1821-22.
John B. George, William Thompson,	. . .	1822-23
John B. George, John Ward,	. . .	1823-24.
John B. George, Thomas Peery,	. . .	1824-25.
John B. George, ——— Deskins,	. . .	1825-26.
John B. George, ——— Deskins,	. . .	1826-27.
John B. George, John Ward,	. . .	1827-28.
Thomas I. George, William Barnes,	. . .	1828-29.
Thomas I. George, ——— ———	. . .	1829-30.

The convention\* of 1829-30 was now in session. Col. John B. George was the representative from this county. This convention altered the constitution so as to admit but one representative from the county.

The following are the gentlemen elected under the new law, in the order of their names.

	.	.	.	.	.	1831-32.
Robt. Gillespie,	.	.	.	.	.	1832-33.
Robt. Gillespie,	.	.	.	.	.	1833-34.
Henry George,	.	.	.	.	.	1834-35.
Jas. W. M. Witten,	.	.	.	.	.	1835-36.
Robt. Gillespie,	.	.	.	.	.	1836-37.
Jas. W. M. Witten,	.	.	.	.	.	1837-38.
Addison Crockett,	.	.	.	.	.	1838-39.
Jas. C. Spotts,	.	.	.	.	.	1839-40.
Jas. C. Spotts,	.	.	.	.	.	1840-41.
Henry Bowen,	.	.	.	.	.	1841-42.
Jas. C. Spotts,	.	.	.	.	.	1842-43.
Alexander Harrison,	.	.	.	.	.	1843-44.
Hervey G. Perry,	.	.	.	.	.	1844-45.
Samuel Laird,	.	.	.	.	.	1845-46.
Thomas H. Gillespie,	.	.	.	.	.	1846-47.
Thomas H. Gillespie,	.	.	.	.	.	1847-48.
Henry George,	.	.	.	.	.	1848-49.
Henry George,	.	.	.	.	.	1849-50.
Jas. W. M. Witten,	.	.	.	.	.	1850-51.

The right of suffrage was extended in 1851, and James W. M. Witten was again elected.



**BOOK III.**

**I N D I A N W A R S .**



## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN WARS OF TAZEWELL.

I HAVE thought proper to trace the history of the Indians, who have, since 1539, inhabited south-western Virginia. These have been the Xualans, Shawanoes, and Cherokees, the latter of whom will not be noticed at length. History, indeed, throws but little light on this interesting subject, yet, I imagine, more than is generally supposed. All who have written upon this subject, seem to have depended much upon their own warped imaginations, to fill a vacuum which will ever exist, to some extent, in the history of the nations of the earth. If I am not mistaken, however, I shall show that some important facts remain unnoticed, and which lead to important conclusions.

Everything said with reference to the early history of Indians on this continent, is more or less connected with the discoverers of America, and, consequently, with the different conquering powers of Europe. The only chronological information respecting the Indians who inhabited the continent in the sixteenth century, is derived from this source.

Previous to 1492, the great powers of Europe had directed their attention to discoveries in the East. The Crusades, a war in which the combined forces of Christendom, sought to wrest from the hands of unbelievers the Holy City of Jerusalem, in which was the sepulcher of Christ, had made

the Europeans somewhat acquainted with the manners and customs of the Asiatics. The scanty trade of rich materials, brought by the caravans across the great desert, together with the account of India by Marco Polo, who visited China in the 13th century, and that of Sir John Mandeville, at a later period, had excited the mercantile spirit of Europeans, until they were completely engrossed in seeking for a passage to the East Indies. In the midst of this excitement, Columbus conceived his great idea of sailing west, in order to discover the land so much desired. The countries bordering on the Mediterranean sea, together with Portugal, France, and England, seem to have been most advanced in the art of navigation.

The discovery of the magnetic needle, and the consequent invention of the mariner's compass, in the 12th century, enabled the hardy navigator to extend his voyages to the Canaries and Azores in the broad Atlantic. Yet owing to the state of geographical science, at this period, he dared not pass them. He took all beyond these, as a vast body of unterminating water, which, after having been passed over a certain distance, would preclude the possibility of returning, for the convexity of the earth had by this time begun to gain some notoriety among those, who a century before, believed the earth to be a vast plain.

Such was the state of navigation, and geographical knowledge, when Columbus came forward, in 1486, and entreated the Genoese government to send him on a voyage of discovery; or in other words, to search for a passage to the

Indies, by sailing west. With all the eloquence of a master mind, did he plead at the courts of Europe; but everywhere the same cold denial fell grating upon his ear, till finally, in 1492, just six years after he had made his first exertions at the courts of his native country, he prevailed on Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Spain, to patronize him in a grand voyage of discovery. A desire to christianize the heathen world, seems to have actuated Isabella to her praiseworthy exertions in favor of Columbus, for she pawned her jewels with a broker, in order to raise the means to fit out his squadron. The sovereigns, being both zealous Catholics, gave orders to Columbus, to seek first the conversion of any nation he should find, and then open a traffic with them. For this purpose, quite a number of priests offered their services, several of whom were accepted. The fleet sailed, and Columbus discovered the West India isles, which, for a long while, were known merely as Indies; but when it was known that they were not the Indies proper, the appellation *West* was prefixed, to distinguish them from India proper, now known as East Indies. From this supposed discovery of India, the aborigines were called Indians; which mistake has never been corrected, nor has any considerable attempt to do so been made, so far as I am informed. General custom has fastened it upon them, and as a race, they will most likely ever be known by it. We might as well, however, and with the same propriety, call them *Vinelanders*, in respect to the alleged discoveries of the Northmen, as to call them *Indians*, because Columbus supposed he had discovered India.



When Columbus returned, he carried over with him various ornaments unknown to Europeans, and also many productions analogous to those of India proper, which had from time to time found their way into Europe. The news of his arrival spread like wild-fire through the south of Europe, and great numbers of adventurers flocked around his standard (to use a military phrase), some eager to traffic with the natives, and others anxious to christianize the New World, which, in its extent and resources, had been greatly overrated by Columbus and his followers.

The islands were soon overrun by adventurers, who, after having learned its real extent and resources, in many instances returned with such discouraging reports, that the New World began to lose its interest; the tide of emigration nearly ceased, and so few thought of seeking fortune in the Indies, that when the continent was reached, several years after, no great sensation was experienced in Europe. That part discovered at this period, was what is now known as Central America, and which did not present as great inducements to the trader as were afterward evolved; yet the magnificence of its vegetable productions, the rarity of its flowering plants, its fishes, its numerous animals, and the supposed existence of valuable minerals, were sufficient to allure a few into a traffic with the natives, among whom were to be found members of the indomitable priesthood, eager to please heaven, by pleasing the pope.

A settlement was effected at Yucatan, and the ministry, spreading themselves over a good part of the Isthmus, bid

fair to attain some important ends, which, no doubt, would have been accomplished but for their intolerant religious views. Persuasion was found inadequate to convert the natives; the next, and to their minds, the most efficient means, was the merciless sword of religious persecution. The motives of the infatuated priesthood were no doubt good, but acting upon a false principle in moral philosophy, they believed fear to be a higher principle than love, and hence, entirely failed in their object.

Had they been better acquainted with the aboriginal character, it is highly probable that they would have acted in quite a different manner. Permanent conversion was of but little moment; the destruction of a stone or wooden god, was to them all-sufficient. They seem to have thought that if the cross was once planted, all would be as fully convinced of the infallibility of the pope as themselves, and be as enthusiastic in the worship of the true God, through the sacred symbol of the cross, and Virgin, as they were. I cannot but believe the labors of the priesthood were intended to effect a great good, but, at the same time, I cannot help pitying that blind fanaticism which could destroy an empire, to see a cross reared upon its ruins.

As the priesthood did not use arms, and were generally the only educated persons, they became the principal historians of the New world. Their religious duties led them into an intimate correspondence with the aborigines, whose history fell exclusively into their hands. The history of the natives, previous to this time, was certainly traditionary, but

tradition, if not too old, is good authority when there is similarity among the people of an extended nation. Now these fathers of the church, no doubt, conversed with men eighty years of age, and they with others of eighty; these two persons would be able to give him the history of one hundred and sixty years, with great accuracy (on such authority is the major part of this History and Indian wars of Tazewell). This would take the historian back to 1340, a period, the history of which has not been sought after, as it is thought to be irretrievably lost.

But this history is mostly preserved, for the priesthood were careful to record it, together with descriptions of their manners, customs, countries, etc., which were sent to the Vatican, in the archives of which will be found more information upon this subject, than any have heretofore supposed to exist. This is true, let the point of discovery be where it may.

In 1520, twenty-eight years after the discovery of the Islands by Columbus, Cortez overthrew the Mexican empire, the mineral treasures of which flowing into Spain, and from thence into other European countries, not only awakened the active imaginations of the French, but set in motion the energies of the more lethargic English nation. All Europe, in a word, became crazed with fanciful dreams of immense wealth to be gathered upon the shores of the New Continent.

About this time, the light of religious liberty began to illumine men's minds, and consequently lessened the sacerdotal empire of the pope, who, to meet his reverses in the Old

World, pushed his movements in the New, with great energy, hoping, no doubt, that what he lost upon one hand, he would gain upon the other: hence he urged the powers under his influence, to make sure their discoveries in America.

France soon began to colonize Canada, and certainly it is to be wished they had been the discoverers and settlers of the whole continent, for no nation, who made extensive discoveries, seems to have spilled so little blood in subduing the natives. Had Mexico been overthrown by a French army, in place of a Spanish army, we should most probably have had many monuments of ancient Mexican glory, now standing, as indexes to the new nation of the Continent, by which we might know something of the character of the people, whose country we now possess.

It is true, that the French were actuated by the same religious zeal, but their love of art, and history, would most likely have prevented that sweeping destruction of manuscripts, monuments, temples, cities etc., which fell upon Anahuac.

The intelligent French priest (for so I must term him), was afforded an easy channel of communication by the lakes and great rivers; hence we find them among all the nations residing near the lakes, Mississippi, or Ohio rivers and their branches. To exterminate the race, amalgamation of species was thought preferable to war; and I am almost ready to say, would to God this system had been generally adopted.

The French fathers were industrious in collecting information respecting the Indians. Many of these narratives found

their way to the public libraries of France, but a greater portion to the archives of the Romish capital. In the archives of the royal library, and those in the marine and colonial departments at Paris, will be found the following documents, copies of which should be secured, and placed in our own public libraries, that American historians might derive all possible assistance from them, in their researches upon Indian history :

1. Statistical Account of the Indians of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, by Gov. Keleric.
2. Keleric's Statistical Information of the Indians, from Mobile to Carolina.
3. A Memorial on the Rivers, Lands, and Indians of Missouri ; a valuable document.
4. Letter from Gov. De Bienville, on the Indians ; also a valuable document.
5. The 102d Document in the Second Portfolio ; being a letter of advices by M. Paria, to the minister, on the Illinois and other Indians, together with remarks upon Indian warfare.
6. Bienville on the Indians living in the interior of Illinois and Ohio.
7. Bienville's Report on the Chicasaw Road on the headwaters of the Yazoo river.
8. Bienville's Account of the Wabash country.
9. M. De Ibberville on the Indians of America, their Manners and Customs.
10. Bienville on the Indians in the English Country, their Manners and Customs.

11. A letter from Father Gabriel Marest; very interesting.
12. Vandruille's Report on the Choctaws.
13. De Artaguett's Defense of his Indian Wars—a valuable paper.
14. M. Crozat on the Attempts of the English to seduce the Indians.
15. The 301st Doc. of the 6th Portfolio; being interesting details by M. Bienville, respecting various Indian Tribes, together with Letters from persons who had resided among them; Indian Speeches, etc.
16. Paria on the Indians and Missionaries among them.
17. Beauchamp on Indian Customs, etc.

But I cannot particularize farther; there are upward of six hundred of these documents, many of them throwing much light upon the North American Indians.

In the archives of the marine department of England are also many valuable documents upon the same subject.

In the public libraries of Portugal, are a few papers of merit, and many in the Spanish libraries, as also those of Vienna; but these have generally been known to exist, and hence have been well perused. In the monasterial libraries, and in the archives of the Church at Rome will, however, be found more information upon this subject, than from any other source. But until the Church will throw open its libraries, and archival collections for the inspection of the antiquarian, we shall be none the wiser for their existence.

By one of these documents, I learn that in 1539 Hernando De Soto landed at Tampa bay, in Florida, with orders to

form a settlement at some convenient place on the seashore, and to penetrate to the most western limits of Florida, said to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, and from the Gulf of Mexico on the south, to Virginia and Carolina on the north, a region embracing a great part of what is now known as the United States.

De Soto traversed the country in a northerly direction to the country of the Palachees, or as Coxe has it in his history of Louisiana, Appalachees, whose villages stood on the banks of the Withlacooche, in the present limits of Georgia. From these villages he took a northerly route, till he struck the Santee not far from the present site of Columbia, the capital of South Carolina. He then passed up the Saluda branch of the Santee, till he arrived in an uninhabited district. Here he camped, and sent out his hunters to look for some Indian trail, which would, at least, direct them to a place where provisions might be obtained. The hunters soon returned with a small party of Indians, who informed him that a powerful nation lived north of them, on the Hiwassee (now called Tennessee) river.

We are informed by Louis Hernandez De Biedma, in an account of this expedition which was drawn up and presented to the king and council of the Indies in 1544, and which has been lately discovered, that this nation was called Cañitachiqui and that it was governed by a queen. Some with whom I have lately conferred upon this subject, are of opinion that Vasquez De Ayllon likewise visited the country of the Cañitachiquians, from the hatchets and other trinkets

found in their village. But these people informed De Soto, that De Ayllon did not penetrate far into the country, most of his soldiers having died of hunger; only fifty-seven of upward of six hundred escaping to tell the dreadful tale. De Biedma says: "we remained ten or twelve days in the queen's village, and then set off to explore the country. We marched in a northerly direction eight or ten days, through a mountainous country, where there was but little food, until we reached a province called Xuala, which was thinly inhabited. We then ascended to the sources of the great river which we supposed was the St. Esprit."\*

Now it is evident that the queen's village was on the banks of the Tennessee, not far from the present site of Knoxville, if we reflect for a moment upon the previous route of De Soto, and that to have reached the sources of the Tennessee river, would have required such a course, and about the same length of time as that given by De Biedma; and if his account be true, De Soto and his party must have visited the counties of Tazewell and Washington, Va., as early as 1540.

Richard Hacklyt† speaks of the same route and towns as those mentioned by De Biedma; but as he did not visit the country, and wrote merely for information, he is, of course, not so good authority as the one I have followed, and who was the appointed historian of the expedition.

I have been particular in referring to these old documents, because they exhibit, though rather imperfectly, the manners

\* See expedition of De Soto, by De Biedma—page 13.

† Hacklyt's Ex. Her. De Soto—page 53.



and customs of the natives before the influence of Europeans had made any impression upon them. If a sufficient number of these be examined, and we take into account the condition and motives of the narrators, we shall be able to gather the precise representation of aboriginal America.

Whoever would speculate upon human action, can do no better than consult these documents. In some instances he will perceive adventurers, impelled chiefly by curiosity; while others are moved by the most philanthropic motives; and yet others, who sought only personal aggrandizement. It may well be said, that religious zeal and love of gold discovered the New World. To accomplish the former, when persuasion failed, the sword was used; and to satiate the latter, the silent grave was opened, as in Casitachiqui, and the ornaments of the dead appropriated to living men.

These, then, being the principal objects of the discoverers, we are not to suppose that our information would be as ample as if they had been traveling, as did Baron Von Humboldt, to observe the manners and customs of men, and the phenomena of nature.

From what has been said, it is evident that the name of south-western Virginia, three hundred and twenty years ago, was XUALA; and that it was peopled by a hardy race, whose chief subsistence was the game abounding in their dense mountain-forests, and the fishes swimming in their clear mountain streams. De Biedma says, "they were a hospitable race," though poor. He tells us, as also other early writers, that those people living south of the Hiwassee, or Tennessee

river, lived in log-houses, daubed with clay, and very comfortable during the winter months ; but that during the summer they usually reposed in the open air, by fire, or in thickets, and that much of their time was spent in hunting. And further, it is stated, that those of Xuala were, in addition to the chase, fond of manly exercises and war.

To supply the place of iron instruments of a warlike nature, sharp stones, slings, bows and arrows, and clubs were made and used. The inhabitants of all the continent, and especially of the country south of the Potomac, lived in towns, each of which was furnished with a temple, a burial-place, and a mound, on which stood the house of the Cacique, or chief. We are informed by De Biedma, Hacklyt, DeTonty, La Salle, and others, that this was a general custom, and gave rise to those mounds which are now regarded as burial-places, and which are sometimes opened by the whites, who expect to find in them treasures of value.

This mound building leads to some important conclusions, and reminds us strongly of the Egyptian custom of building pyramids.\* It is highly probable that the sizes of these mounds are an index to the power of the princes who had them built.

The town built by the Xualan, differed a little from that of the more southern Indians, for they seem to have built a town which was at once a town and a fort. The species of

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\* Might not the natives have been originally from Egypt, having been driven thence after embracing the religion of the Hebrews ?

fort needed by the natives of Xuala, differed from what would now be needed by a people who had to defend themselves against the arms and engines of the nineteenth century. The traces of many of these forts are now to be seen in southwestern Virginia. These cannot be Cherokee forts, though they captured the Xualans, and hence became masters of the country, for they do not build forts in the same manner; beside, the trees growing on some of them, prove, beyond doubt, that they have been evacuated three hundred years. That they were towns as well as forts, is proved by the existence of many fragments of earthenware, etc., found on or around them, and from their shape and general location, they were certainly forts.

They were circular, varying in size from three hundred to six hundred feet in diameter. An embankment of earth was thrown up five or six feet, and, perhaps, this mounted by palisades. A few of these towns or forts, were built of stone, and sometimes trenches surrounded them. A stone fort, of great size, stood in Abb's valley, in Tazewell county, Virginia, and has but lately been removed. A large sassafras, which stood near the center of the walls, might, if proper observation had been made, have given some important chronological information, but which, alas! as is too often the case, has been swept off, as if desirous to obliterate the last vestige of the race of red-men.

The remains of a remarkable fort are to be seen on the lands of Mr. Crockett, near Jeffersonville, having evident traces of trenches, and something like a drawbridge. This fort has

been evacuated, judging from the timber on it, over two hundred years.

The roads left by the Indians is another source of information, of which few writers have availed themselves. I beg to refer the reader to a report of a company sent out by the French colony in Louisiana, to search for roads. It is to be found in what is usually called Bienville's report, previously referred to.

The principal Indian trails in Tazewell, led through the Clinch valley, but after the whites began to settle, and the Indians had removed west, their trails all led from the Ohio river. These were probably made by animals, in the first instance; afterward used by the Indians in their visits to their native hills, and have since become roads under the improving hands of the white man.

One of these trails led up the Indian ridge (see Map) till opposite the trace fork of Tug river; it then crossed over to that branch, and keeping into the lowest gaps of the hills, led into Abb's valley settlement. Another, now much used by the whites, left the ridge and struck Tug river at the mouth of Clearfork creek; thence up it, till it fell over on a branch emptying into the dry fork of Tug river. It then wound up that stream to its head, and passed through Roark's Gap. This led into the Baptist valley settlement. Another came up the La Visee fork of Sandy river, leading into the settlements in the western part of the county. Those trails which passed through the county, always crossed the mountains at the very lowest gap. At these places they have built small monu-

ments of loose stones, piled up with great exactness on each other. Most of these have suffered from the cupidity of the whites. This custom of building stone pillars, reminds us of the custom so common among the Jews at an early period, of marking places where covenants had been made, by piling up stones.

To recapitulate—the south-western portion of Virginia was visited in 1540, by Hernando De Soto, who found the country occupied by the Xualans. These were afterward conquered by the Cherokees, in whose possession the English found the country. The Cherokees were driven out and the country taken possession of by the whites. The country has been claimed by four civilized governments, viz: England, France, Spain, and its present owners. The quantity of game seems to have made the country desirable to the Indians, while its pure water, beautiful scenery, and rich soil seem to have captivated the whites.

There is still remaining another vestige of the Indians, which, if closely observed, might throw some light upon this obscure subject. I refer to the vast collections of bones, or human skeletons, some of immense size, deposited in almost every cavern in this section. It is to be earnestly hoped that some one will be curious enough, or be enough interested to examine this trace of Indian existence in ancient Xuala. Time is passing so rapidly, and laying its blighting finger upon material things with such destroying effect, that there does not remain a day for suspended action. “Now or never,” must be the watchword of the historian.

## CHAPTER II.

## INTRODUCTION CONTINUED — COMPEND HISTORY OF THE SHAWANOES.

THE orthography which designates this tribe, is given differently by different writers. Shawanoe, seems to me best supported, and has therefore been adopted. Various appellations have been applied to them. In 1540, they were known as Chaowanous; by which name they are yet known to the French. The Iroquois call them Satanos: but their real name is, perhaps, Massawomees. They were called Shawaneus by the Delawares, and hence their present name.

They have the following curious tradition among themselves, respecting their origin. They believe that their fathers crossed the ocean from the east, "under the guidance of a leader of the turtle tribe, one of their twelve original subdivisions. They walked into the sea, the waters of which immediately parted, and they passed in safety along the bottom of the ocean, until they reached this Island.\*

It is difficult to say where their original homes were; but from the fact of their being in Georgia in 1540, and then at the treaty of the Great Elm in 1682, we might conclude that they were a rambling tribe. Their homes at this latter

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\* This tradition is taken from the history of the North American Indians, by Hall and McKinney, and quoted by Drake in his life of Tecumseh. The tradition strongly reminds us of the passage of the Red Sea.

date, were, perhaps, on the shores of the Susquehanna. From here they went into the country of the Iroquois, but here they got into a war, and were compelled to emigrate to the south. They settled near their former homes, on the Savannah river, in Georgia, and from thence spread themselves westward, through Ohio, the southern part of Kentucky, and northward through North and South Carolina. Their extension westward had been directed by a noted chief named Black Hoof. Their migration to the west seems to have been caused by inability to defend themselves against the combined forces of their old enemies, whom they had often despoiled. After settling their whole nation in Ohio, they were taken under the protection of the Delawares. Chapman informs us that after they had established themselves in a town at the mouth of the Wabash, "they applied to the Delawares for some territory on which to reside." This seems not to have been the wish of the majority, for after the request had been granted, "a council was held to consider the propriety of accepting it." A part, principally the Piqua tribe, refused to accept it, and formed a settlement on the forks of the Delaware. A dispute between them and the Delawares induced them to move to Wyoming valley, on the Susquehanna. They built their town on the west bank, and there reposed in peace a number of years.

That part of the nation which remained on the Wabash, took sides with the French in the war of 1754, between the French and English, and endeavored to persuade their

brethren of Wyoming to a like course ; but the labors of Count Zinzendorf, a christian minister, sent out by the United Brethren, had made them averse to war.

A childish dispute between themselves and the Delawares, who had settled near them by this time, brought on a war, in which the Shawanoes were defeated, and in consequence, moved westward and settled on the banks of the Ohio. They were finally spread from the Alleghanies to the Big Miami river. They built many villages along the river bottoms of the west, and among them one called *Piqua*, memorable as the birthplace of the great Tecumseh. This village was destroyed in 1780, by an expedition sent out from Kentucky, under the command of General George Rodgers Clark.

After this village was destroyed, they settled a district which had been evacuated by the Miamis, where they remained till again routed by the Kentuckians. From thence they crossed over to the St. Mary's and Wapakanotta.\* They are divided into four tribes, viz: *Magnachake*, *Chilicothe*, *Kiskapokolie*, and *Piqua*. The following tradition has been cited in illustration of the *Piqua* tribe. "In ancient times, the Shawanoes had occasion to build a large fire, and after it was burned down, a great puffing and blowing was heard, when up rose a man from the ashes! hence the name *Piqua*, which means a man coming out of the ashes." It is said that this tradition has given

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\* Drake.



rise to the barbarous custom of burning prisoners, prevalent among those Indians related to the Algonkin-lenape family; and that it is not a desire to torture, but a kind of religious offering to this man of the "ashes."

It is known that the Shawanoes took sides with the English in the war of 1776, though their acts to the Americans were trifling, and again in the war of 1812, when they played a part which cost us much blood. For these acts there are many mitigating circumstances, which I would be glad to set forth if the limits of my work would admit. It only remains to state what became of the Shawanoes after the close of the frontier war.

In 1817 they ceded the principal part of their lands in Ohio to the United States, and moved to a small reserve around Wapakanotta, where they remained a short time; but, by the pressing demands of the government, they sold this too, and are now living on the Platte river, west of Missouri. They have depreciated in numbers to about one thousand souls.

"Alas! who can but pity?"

## CHAPTER III.

DEFENSIVE POSITION OF TAZEWELL DURING THE FRONTIER  
WAR.

IN order to appreciate the true situation of the frontiersmen during the long wars which so devastated the settlements, it is essentially necessary that the reader should know the exact position which they occupied, and how much depended upon their own exertions. For this purpose has this chapter been set apart.

Previous to 1776, the settlers were engaged in erecting suitable houses to protect their families from the inclemencies of the weather, as well as to render them more secure from the attacks of the Indians. Their lands had to be opened, and, consequently, they were much in the forest. As there was an abundance of game, and few domestic animals, their meat was taken mostly from the forest; this likewise took them from home. They were few, and to raise a house, or roll the logs from a field, required the major part of a settlement. This likewise left their families exposed; yet such work was usually executed during the winter months, when the Indians did not visit the settlements. To give further protection to the families of the settlers, in every neighborhood block-houses were, as soon as convenient, erected, to which the families could repair in times of necessity.

After 1776, forts and stations were built, as it became necessary for many of the settlers to join the army. In these forts, and particularly at the stations, a few men were left to defend them. But the extent of country to be defended was so great, and the stations so few, that there was, in reality, but little safety afforded to the families of the settlers.

De Hass has given correct descriptions of block-houses, forts, and stations, to which I beg to refer the reader. There was a fort erected by William Wynn, a strict old Quaker, and one of the best of men, on Wynn's branch; another at Crab orchard, by Thomas Witten, and one at Maiden Spring, by Rees Bowen — two men whose names will be cherished in the memories of the people of Tazewell for ages to come.

There was a station on Linking Shear branch, containing a few men under the command of Capt. John Preston, of Montgomery; another on Bluestone creek, in command of Capt. Robert Crockett of Wythe county, and another at the present site of the White Sulphur springs, in command of Capt. James Taylor of Montgomery. It is also said, that there was a station in Burk's Garden; I imagine, however, that it was not constructed by order of the Government.

The following persons, citizens of the county, were posted in these forts and stations, viz:

Bailey, John	Burgess, Edward
Bailey, James	Belcher, Robert
Belcher, Joseph	Brewster, Thomas

Chaffin, Christopher	Maxwell, John
Connelly, James	Maxwell, Thomas
Crockett, John	Marrs——(?)
Cotterel, “	Peery, James
Evans, John, Sr.	Pruett, John
Evans, John, Jr.	Thompson, Archibald
Gilbert, Joseph	Witten, James
Godfrey, Absalom	Wynn, Oliver
Hall, William	Wright, Michael
Lusk, David	Ward, John
Lusk, Samuel	Ward, William
Lusley, Robert	Wright, Hezekiah.
Martin, James	

These men were to hold themselves in readiness to act as circumstances might demand. To make them more efficient, spies were employed to hang upon the great trails leading into the settlements from the Ohio. Upon discovering the least sign of Indians, they hurried into the settlements and warned the people to hasten to the forts or stations, as the case might be. They received extra wages for their services, for they were both laborious and important, and also fraught with danger. For such an office the very best men were chosen; for it will be readily seen, that a single faithless spy, might have permitted the Indians to pass unobserved, and committed much havoc among the people, before they could have prepared for defense. But it does not appear that any “spy” failed to give the alarm when possible so to do.

They always went two together, and frequently remained out several weeks upon a scout. Great caution was necessary to prevent the Indians from discovering them, hence their beds were usually of leaves, in some thicket commanding a view of the war-path. Wet or dry, day or night, these men were ever on the lookout. The following persons were chosen from the preceding list, to act as spies, viz :

Burgess, Edward	Martin, James
Bailey, James	Maxwell, John
Bailey, John	Wynn, Oliver
Crockett, John	Witten, James

The last of whom, was one of the most sagacious and successful spies to be found anywhere on the frontier. His name is yet as familiar with the people, as if he had lived and occupied a place among them but a day ago.\*

Such as were too old to bear arms in the government service, usually guarded the women, children, and slaves, while cultivating the farms. Tazewell had but a small population at this time, yet from the number engaged in the

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\* James Witten was born January 7th, 1759, in the colony of Maryland, and emigrated to Tazewell with his father, Thomas Witten, in 1773. At this time, though only about fifteen years of age, he was much distinguished as a hunter and woodsman. He was brave and generous to a fault; and was remarkable for decided action even at this early age. He married in 1783, and became at once a conspicuous character in the border war, which had not yet ceased. From 1794 to '96, he was employed as a regular spy. When any duty requiring bravery, firmness, and prudence, had to be performed, James Witten was the man invariably chosen, as he possessed these qualities in an eminent degree. Many incidents of interest are related of him, which should be preserved.

regular service, we should be led to think otherwise. The following table will convey a good idea of their dispersion over the country, their families, in the meantime, exposed to the horrors of the tomahawk and scalping-knife.

NAMES.	WHERE ENGAGED.	WHERE KILLED.	WOUNDED.
Bowen, Rees....	King's Mountain .....	King's Mt....	.....
Bowling, Jarret .	.....	.....	.....
Brown, Low ....	Clark's Ex. to Illinois.....	.....	.....
Cartmill, James .	Alamance .....	.....	.....
Dolsberry, Lyles	Pt. Pleasant, etc. ....	.....	.....
Ferguson, Saml.	Alamance .....	.....	.....
Harrison, Thos..	Brandywine, Germantown and Yorktown .....	.....	.....
Harper, Jesse ...	.....	.....	.....
Lasly, John.....	Clark's Ex. to Illinois ..	.....	.....
Maloney, Archer	Brandywine and Stony Point .	.....	.....
Mc Guire, Nealy	Clark's Ex. to Illinois .....	.....	.....
Moore, Capt.	Alamance .....	.....	.....
James*.....	.....	.....	.....
Peery, William ..	Alamance and Illinois Ex. ...	.....	.....
Peery, Thomas ..	Alamance .....	Alamance....	.....
Peery, John†....	Alamance .....	.....	Alamance
Stratton, Solom.	Clark's Ex. to Illinois .....	.....	.....
Tomlinson, Isam	Brandywine, Germantown, etc.	.....	.....

\* Capt. James Moore was afterward killed by the Indians, in Abb's valley. See History of Moore Family.

† This man actually received fifty-four saber cuts in this engagement. He was disabled and thrown upon the ground, and as Tarlton's troops passed, each man gave him a cut. His head and arms were literally cut to pieces, yet he recovered, and lived many years to enjoy the freedom which cost him so dearly.

It is a little strange that the frontiers should have furnished so many men for the army, when their absence so greatly exposed their families. But when we reflect that no people felt the horrors of war more sensibly than they did, and that no people are readier to serve the country in the day when aid is needed, than those of mountainous regions, we shall at once have an explanation to their desire, and consequent assistance, in bringing the war to a close. Beside, the people of Tazewell have ever been foremost in defending the country; showing at once that determination to be free, which so eminently characterizes the people of mountainous districts.\*

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\* The following list of persons who served in the war of 1812-14, will corroborate the above statement, viz:

Asbury, William	Higginbotham, James	Tabor, Daniel
Bowen, Col. Henry	Higginbotham, Wm.	Thompson, Henry B.
Barnes, William	King, Isaac	Vandyke, Charles
Belcher, James	Lusk, David	Vandyke, John
Bostic, Isaac	Peery, Capt. Thomas	Witten, William
Brooks, James	Peery, Jonathan	Wynn, Peter E.
Bainheart, George	Peery, Solomon	Ward, Alexander
Davidson, John	Robertson, David	Wilson, Hugh
Earley, Jeremiah	Stevenson, Matthew	Wynn, Samuel
Franklin, Pleasant	Smith, William	Walls, Joseph
Green, William	Shannon, John	Young, Nathaniel
Gose, Peter	Thompson, Rees B.	Young, Israel

Two companies offered their services to the government to engage in the Mexican war; they were not accepted, however, as a sufficiency of men had already been received. JAMES WYNN and WESLEY HUBBARD, however, joined the Washington troops; with these exceptions, Tazewell may be said not to have participated in the war with Mexico.

The reader, by consulting the Map, and learning that during the Indian wars the population did not much exceed five hundred, will see at once that Tazewell county afforded an open field for the depredations of the Indians.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### THE EVANS FAMILY.

\* JOHN, and Jesse Evans, his son, emigrated from Amherst county, Virginia, near Lynchburg, and settled in Tazewell in 1773. John settled at the Locust bottom; Jesse, at a place now owned by Mr. Buze Harman, about a mile distant from his father's place, and eight miles from the present seat of justice.\*

In 1777 John Evans was taken prisoner, from the Locust bottom, by a band of Shawanoes, and marched off to the

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\* As I have traced the history of this family beyond the limits of Tazewell county, it may not be improper to state my reasons for doing so. In the first place, every incident connected with their history is well worth the perusal, and hence, worthy the attention of the historian. Secondly, one of the largest and most respectable families in this county have sprung from them, to whom it must be interesting to have recorded the deeds of such worthy ancestors. The last, but not least, motive under which I act, is, that common justice to the memory of brave men requires me to give a sufficiency of their history to unfold their characters.



Indian towns in the west. From there, he was taken to some of the Canadian towns, from whence he either escaped or was exchanged, and made his way to Philadelphia. His son, hearing of his arrival at Philadelphia, went after him in the spring of '78, and brought him home. He was much exposed, and represented his sufferings as immense. This captivity, exposure, and anxiety of mind, planted the seeds of consumption, and he fell a victim to its ravages in 1801.

In the summer of 1779, Jesse Evans left his house with six or eight hired men, for the purpose of executing some work at a distance from home. As they carried with them various farming implements, their guns were left at the house, where Mrs. Evans was engaged in weaving a piece of cloth. Her oldest daughter was filling quills for her; while the remaining four children were either at play in the garden, or gathering vegetables.

The garden was about sixty yards from the house, and as no sawmills were in existence at that day in this county, slab-boards were put up in the manner called "wattling" for palings. These were some six feet long, and made what is called a close fence. Eight or ten Indians, who lay concealed in a thicket near the garden, silently left their hiding-places, and made their way, unobserved, to the back of the garden; there removing a few boards, they bounded through and commenced the horrid work of killing and scalping the children. The first warning Mrs. Evans had was their screams and cries. She ran to the door, and beheld the

sickening scene, with such feelings as only a *mother* can feel.

Mrs. Evans was a stout, athletic woman, and being inured to the hardships of the times, with her to will was to do. She saw plainly that on her exertions alone could one spark of hope be entertained for the life of her "first-born." An unnatural strength seemed to nerve her arm, and she resolved to defend her surviving child to the last extremity. Rushing into the house she closed the door, which being too small left a crevice, through which in a few seconds an Indian introduced his gun, aiming to pry open the door, and finish the bloody work which had been so fearfully begun. Mrs. Evans had thrown herself against the door to prevent the entrance of the savages, but no sooner did she see the gun-barrel than she seized it, and drew it so far in as to make it an available lever in prying to the door. The Indians threw themselves against the door to force it open, but their efforts were unavailing. The heroic woman stood to her post, well knowing that her life depended upon her own exertions. The Indians now endeavored to wrest the gun from her; in this they likewise failed. Hitherto she had worked in silence; but as she saw no prospect of the Indians relinquishing their object, she began to call loudly for her husband, as if he really were near. It had the desired effect; they let go the gun, and hastily left the house, while Mrs. Evans sat quietly down to await a second attack; but the Indians, who had perhaps

seen Mr. Evans and his workmen leave the house, feared he might be near, and made off with all speed.

While Mrs. Evans was thus sitting and brooding over the melancholy death of her children, anxious to go to those in the garden, but fearing to leave her surviving one in the house, exposed to a second attack, a man named Goldsby stepped up to the door. Never did manna fall to the hungry Jew more opportunely ; yet no sooner did he hear her woeful tale, than he turned his back upon her, and fled as if every tree and bush had been an Indian taking deadly aim at him. Such were his exertions to get to a place of greater safety, that he brought on hemorrhage of the lungs, from which he with much difficulty recovered.

Seeing herself thus left to the mercy of the savages, Mrs. Evans took up the gun she had taken from them, and started, with her remaining daughter, to Major John Taylors, about two miles distant, where, tired and frenzied with grief, she arrived in safety. She had not been gone a great while when Mr. Evans returned, and not suspecting anything wrong, he took down a book, and was engaged in its perusal for some time, till finally he became impatient, and started to the garden, where he supposed Mrs. Evans was gathering vegetables. What must have been his feelings when he reached the garden, to see four of his children murdered and scalped ? Seeing nothing of his wife and eldest daughter, he supposed they had been taken prisoners ; he therefore returned quickly to the house, seized his gun, and started for

Major Taylor's, to get assistance, and a company to follow on, and try, if possible, to retake them. Frantic with grief; he rushed into the house to tell his tale of woe, when he was caught in the arms of his brave wife. His joy, at finding them, was so great, that he could scarcely contain himself: he wept, then laughed, then thanked God it was no worse. As is common in such cases, in a new country, the neighbors flocked in to know the best or worst, and to offer such aid as lay in their power. They sympathized, as only frontiersmen can sympathize, with the bereaved parents; but the thought of having to bury four children the next morning, was so shocking, and so dreadful to reflect on, that little peace was to be expected for them. Slowly the reluctant hours of night passed away, and a faint gleam of light became visible in the eastern sky. The joyous warblers were gayly flitting from branch to branch, and caroling their sweetest lays, while the sun rose above the mountain summit, shooting his bright beams on the sparkling dew-drops, which hung like so many diamonds from the green boughs of the mountain shrubbery, giving, altogether, an air of gorgeous beauty, which seemed to deny the truth of the evening's tale. The light clouds, swimming in the eastern atmosphere, brilliantly tinted with the rising sun,

And the gentle murmur of the morning breeze,  
Singing nature's anthem to the forest trees,

seemed to say such horrid work could not be done by beings wearing human form. But alas! while nature teaches naught

but love, men teach themselves lessons which call forth her sternest frowns.

A hasty breakfast was prepared, and the men set off to Mr. Evans's house to bury the murdered children. With a heart too full for utterance, the father led the way, as if afraid to look at those little forms for whose happiness he had toiled, and braved the dangers of a frontier life. But a day ago he had dandled them on his knee, and listened to their innocent prattle; they were now monuments of Indian barbarity.

Turning a hill, the fatal garden was instantly painted on the retina of the fond parent's eye, to be as quickly erased by the silent tears which overflowed their fountain, and came trickling down his weather-beaten face.

The party came up on the back of the house; on the front stood the milkhouse, over a spring of clear cold water, when lo! they beheld coming up, as it were, from the very depths of the grave, Mary, a little child only four years old, who had recovered from the stunning blow of the tomahawk, and had been in quest of water at the familiar old spring, around which, but a day before, she had sported in childish glee. The scalp that had been torn from the skull, was hanging hideously over her pale face, which was much besmeared with blood. She stretched out her little arms to meet her father, who rushed to her with all the wild joy of one whose heart beats warm with parental emotions! She had wandered about in the dark, from the time she recovered, and it may be, that more than once tried to wake her little sisters,

on whose heads the tomahawk had fallen with greater force. This poor, half-murdered little child lived, married, and raised a large family.

After this unfortunate affair, Mr. Evans became dissatisfied, and resolved to emigrate to Tennessee. He did so, and settled in a neighborhood near a fort about fifteen miles from Nashville. During the summer season, the frontiersmen placed their families in forts, as well in Tennessee as in Virginia. In the summer of 1775 or '76 Mr. Evans took his two sons, Robert, a lad of fourteen, and Daniel, an elder son, together with five hired men, and set out to work a piece of corn about two miles from the fort. When they arrived at the field, they stacked their guns, and began their labors: they had not worked long, when they were fired upon by a party of about fifteen Indians. Fortunately, no one was killed; a ball entered Daniel's thigh, which disabled him. The white men started for their guns with all haste, but seeing that the Indians were likely to get to them as soon as themselves, all turned back but Mr. Evans and his son Robert, who pushed on to the stack. As Mr. Evans was in the act of getting hold of a gun, he was seized by a large Indian, who threw him to the ground, and had already unsheathed his scalping-knife and raised it to give the fatal blow, when Robert seized a gun, and placing it against the Indian's side as he lay upon his father, fired. The ball entered the Indian's heart; the knife fell harmless, and from under his writhing body, Mr. Evans sprung to his feet, and commenced a rapid firing upon the advancing Indians;

Robert followed his example, and the Indians were soon brought to a halt. The men who had run off, seeing how affairs stood, turned back, and soon routed the Indians. Daniel was carried to the fort, where he lay for some time in consequence of the wound in his hip.

In the fall, about the time Daniel was getting well, flour became scarce in the fort, and as it could be purchased only at Nashville, a company of five were ordered to start after it. Companies ordered on such excursions were usually chosen by lot, and this time Jesse Evans was allotted to form one of the number. When the horses were ready, Daniel begged to take his father's place. The old man objected, but Daniel succeeded in drawing off his father's attention long enough to mount his horse; putting spurs to him, he was soon out of the old man's reach. About two hundred yards from the fort was a dense canebrake, through which led the Nashville trail. Daniel's maneuvering with his father, had thrown him some thirty yards in the rear; looking ahead, he saw quite a number of guns on either side of the trail. He hallooed to his companions to push through; they however turned about, and tried to gain the fort, but to no purpose, as they were killed to a man. Daniel made his way through, and by a circuitous route reached the fort unhurt. When he examined, he found three bullet-holes through his clothes, and two through his hat near his head. The people in the fort hearing the firing, and the groans and screams of the dying, and yells of the Indians, rushing out, attacked the Indians. Among those who left the fort, was the boy Robert

Evans. In a short time the Indians were scattered and concealed in different parts of the canebrake. A drive, as it is called, was instituted: this was effected by stretching themselves across the canebrake and forming a line which would scour its entire body, so that nothing could escape detection which might be lodged in the brake. In the course of the drive, Robert was separated from the main body, and got a considerable distance ahead. In passing a fallen tree, an Indian sprung from behind it and attempted to shoot him: but before the Indian could get his rifle leveled, Robert had hold of it, and in a second wrenched it from the Indian's grasp. The Indian rushed on Robert, who sprang back and snapped the gun at the Indian's breast. On came the enraged savage, who had by this time drawn his scalping-knife, to engage in one of those close combats so common in Indian warfare; but Robert dropped the gun, and drawing his tomahawk, sent its blade deep into the head of his savage antagonist; a spring in the air, a fall, a groan, and the Indian was dead.

Taking up the gun, scalping-knife and tomahawk, he soon joined the main body, who were sent to bring forth the dead Indian from the canebrake, as a trophy of Robert's valor. This feat, and the death of the Indian whom he shot from his father, had made Robert a conspicuous character, and few expeditions were undertaken, in which he did not participate.

The appearance of about two hundred warriors in the settlement, caused Col. Crawford to raise a company to repel them. He succeeded in raising about one hundred men



as volunteers, among whom, were the two Evans boys, Daniel and Robert. When they got to the Tennessee, they found the Indians camped on the opposite side. The men refused to ford the river, which was deep and rapid, before the appearance of daylight. But Col. Crawford saw the necessity of striking the enemy while asleep, accordingly he began to ask for volunteers to follow him over. The first that stepped out was Robert, then several others, among them Daniel, and finally fifty joined him. So small was Robert, and so rapid the stream, that Crawford and another man took him between them to keep the current from washing him off.

When the fifty had crossed, Col. Crawford organized, and made Daniel's fire the signal for the commencement of the battle. They cautiously approached and found the Indians sound asleep. When all were sufficiently near, Daniel leveled his gun at a very large Indian who had made a pillow of the root of a tree, and was wrapped in sweetest slumber, little dreaming, how near was his mortal end. He fired; the Indian rolled over and expired. In a second the camp was lighted up by the glare of the backwoods' rifle; the Indians sprung to their feet only to be shot down. Those who escaped took to the woods, and were no more heard of. Upward of fifty Indians were killed in much less time than it takes to tell the tale.

When Gen. Jackson commenced operations in the south, these boys, who were now able-bodied men, together with John, a younger brother, joined him, and were with him in

all his battles. At New Orleans they figured conspicuously. Daniel and Robert had both married, previous to joining Jackson's army. In 1817, Robert died (a poor man), leaving four children. These General Jackson offered to educate, and insisted on the privilege, from the great intimacy which had existed between himself and Robert; but Daniel, who had married wealthy, thought that it would be allowing himself to be outdone by strangers, and accordingly took charge of them himself. Daniel died in 1835. At the last accounts, John, and old Mrs. Evans, their mother, were living.

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## CHAPTER V.

### JAMES MOORE AND THE MOORE FAMILY—JAMES MOORE TAKEN PRISONER.

In September, 1784, a party of Indians had entered the present limits of Tazewell, and dividing themselves into small parties to steal horses and to annoy the settlers, three had entered the Abb's valley settlement, in which resided Capt. James Moore and a brother-in-law named John Pogue—(this name is spelled Podge by the writer of the Moore narrative in Howe's History of Virginia). The Indians had been for a day or two lurking round, waiting, and looking for an opportunity to seize horses or murder the settlers. While they are thus waiting, we will turn to a scene in Captain

Moore's cabin, and take a look at western life and become somewhat acquainted with the hero of this narrative.

The cabin stood in Abb's valley, near the present residence of William Moore, Esq., son of our hero. It was built of heavy logs, and for the age in which it was built and existed, exhibited some show of comfort. A ladder leading "up stairs" (or as the common name for that apartment of a building still prevalent in the country "loft"), or in other words where a second story would have been sought for, was placed behind the door, on the rounds of which, were hung various articles of clothing, the manufacture of the amiable lady of the house, who, though situated in the wild backwoods, showed that the lessons given by an Augusta mother to her daughter, had not been in vain. At the head of a bed occupying one corner of the room, stood several guns, which showed plainly that war was expected. On a shelf between two beds, were, among other things, a few scattered volumes, of English print, and among them the well-thumbed leaves of a *family Bible*. The old gentleman was conversing with his wife upon the condition of the meal, and was told by her that he would have to send to mill, which was about twelve miles distant from Capt. Moore's residence.

James, Jr., our hero, a lad of fourteen summers, was busily engaged in reading the tale of Valentine and Orson, the vivid characters of which, had taken complete possession of his young and active imagination. So engrossed was he with the history of these brothers, that he continued up, long after the remainder of the family had retired to rest. He had got

to the most thrilling part of the narrative, where Orson is depicted in his most hideous aspect, when the screaming of the geese reminded him it was bed-time.

He lay down, but his imagination had been carried to that degree of excitement which prevents sound slumber, and he frequently awoke, from imperfect naps, to be continually harassed by the imaginary form of Orson by his side, until sleep forsook his eyes and he suffered his imagination to take its own way, and work up such demons, in the shape of hairy men, as it might see fit.

The breaking day called up the father, who was an early riser, to prepare for the labors of the season, and to get a bag of corn ready for the mill. As soon as breakfast was had, James, whose mind was still confused with the dread of imaginary hairy men, was sent by his father to get a horse on which to ride to mill. He started to a waste plantation about two and a half miles distant. We will let Mr. Moore tell a portion himself, which I quote from the Rev. Mr. Brown's narrative inserted in Howe's History of Virginia.

"Notwithstanding this, I had not proceeded more than half the distance to the field, before a sudden dread, or panic, came on me. The appearance of the Indian who took me, was presented to my mind, although at the time I did not think of an Indian, but rather that some wild animal in human shape would devour me. Such was my alarm, that I went on trembling, frequently looking back, expecting to see it. Indeed I would have returned home, but for the fear that with such an excuse, my father would be displeased, and

perhaps send me back. I therefore proceeded on till I came near the field, when suddenly three Indians sprung from behind a log, one of whom laid hold of me. Being much alarmed at the time with the apprehension of being devoured, and believing this to be the animal I had dreaded, I screamed with all my might. The Indian who had hold of me, laid his hand on my head, and, in the Indian language, told me to hush. Looking him in the face, and perceiving that it was an Indian, I felt greatly relieved, and spoke out aloud, 'it is an Indian, why need I fear,' and thought to myself, 'all that is in it, is, I will have to go to the Shawnee towns.'

"In this company, there were only three Indians, a father and son, and one other; the former bearing the name of 'Black Wolf,' a middle aged man, of the sternest countenance I ever beheld, about six feet high, having a black beard. The others, I suppose, were about eighteen years of age, and all of the Shawnee tribe. I belonged to the Black Wolf who had captured me: we immediately proceeded to an old cabin, near which were the horses. Here we made a halt, and the old Wolf told me to catch the horses, and gave me some salt for that purpose. My object was to catch one and mount, and make my escape; but suspecting my intention, as often as I would get hold of a horse they would come running up, and thus scare him away. Finding that I could not get a horse for myself, I had no wish, and did not try to catch one for them, and so, after a few efforts, abandoned the attempt. This, I suppose, was about one o'clock in the after-

noon.\* The Indians then went into a thicket, where were concealed their kettle and blankets, after which we immediately proceeded on our journey.

"In consequence of the high weeds, green briars, logs, and steep mountainous character of the country, the walking was very laborious, and we traveled that evening only about eight miles. The two younger Indians went before, myself next, and the old Wolf in the rear. If marks were made, he would carefully remove them with his tomahawk. I frequently broke bushes, which he discovered, and shook his tomahawk over my head to let me know the consequence if I did not desist. I would then scratch the ground with my feet. This he also discovered, and made me desist, showing me how to set my feet flat, so as not to leave any marks. It then became necessary to cease my efforts to make a trail for others, as they were all immediately detected. In the evening, about sun-down, the old Wolf gave a tremendous war-whoop, and another next morning at sun-rise. These were repeated evening and morning during our whole journey. It was long, loud, and shrill, and intended to signify that they had one prisoner. Their custom is to repeat it as frequent as the number of prisoners. It is different from their war-whoop when they have scalps, and in this way it can be known, as far as the whoop is heard, whether they have prisoners or scalps, and also the number.

"But to return; the night was rainy; we lay down in a

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\* They must have occupied much time in trying to catch the horses, or I am wrongly informed as to the time that James left home.—BICKLEY.

laurel thicket, without food or fire. Previous to this, the old Wolf had searched me carefully, to see whether I had a knife. After this he tied one end of a leading halter very tightly around my neck, and wrapped the other end around his hand, so as to make it secure, as well as very difficult to get away without awaking him. Notwithstanding my situation was thus dreary, gloomy and distressing, I was not altogether prevented from sleep. Indeed, I suppose few persons were ever more resigned to their fate.

"The next morning we resumed our journey about day-break, and continued down Tug creek about two miles, until we reached the main ridge of Tug mountain, along which we descended until we came to Maxwell's gap. At this place, the old Wolf went off and brought in a middle-sized Dutch oven, which had been secreted on their former expedition. The carriage of this was assigned to me. At first it was fastened to my back, but after suffering much, I threw it down, saying I would carry it no more. Upon this, the old Wolf placed down his bundle, and told me to carry it, but on finding that I could not lift it, I became more reconciled, took up the oven again,\* and after some days filled it with leaves, and carried it with more ease. We continued on the same ridge the whole of that day, and encamped on it at night. In the evening there came on a rain, and the son of the Black Wolf pulled off my hat. This I resented, struck him, and took it from him. He then showed me by signs

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\* There is some ambiguity in this part of the narrative.—BICKLEY.

with it that he wished to protect his gun-lock from the rain. I then permitted him to have it, and after the rain he returned it.

"For three days we traveled without sustenance of any kind, save some water in which poplar bark had been steeped. On the fourth day we killed a buffalo, took out the paunch, cut it open, rinsed it a little in the water, cut it up, and put it into the kettle, with some pieces of the flesh, and made broth. Of this we drank heartily, without eating any of the meat. After night we made another kettle of broth, yet eat no meat. This is Indian policy after fasting.

"I traveled the whole route barefooted; the consequence of which was, that I had three stone bruises on each foot, and at this time my sufferings were very great. Frequently I would walk over rattlesnakes, but was not permitted to kill any, the Indians considering them their friends.

"Some few days after this, we killed a buffalo that was very fat, and dried as much of the meat as lasted for several days. After this, we killed deer and buffalo as our wants required, until we reached their towns, near what is now called Chillicothe, in Ohio, just twenty days from the time we set out. We crossed the Ohio between the mouths of Guyandotte and Big Sandy, on a raft made of dry logs, and tied together with grapevines. On the banks of the Sciota we remained one day. Here they made pictures to represent three Indians, and me, their prisoner. Near this place, the old Wolf went off and procured some bullets which he had secreted.



"When we came near the towns, the Indians painted themselves black, but did not paint me. This was an omen of my safety. I was not taken directly to the town, but to the residence of Wolf's half sister, to whom I was sold for an old horse. The reason why I was not taken directly to the town, was, I suppose, first, because it was a time of peace; secondly, that I might be saved from running the gauntlet, which was the case with prisoners taken in war. Shortly after I was sold, my mistress left me entirely alone, for several days, in her wigwam, leaving a kettle of hominy for me to eat. In this solitary situation I first began to pray, and call upon God for mercy and deliverance, and found great relief. Having cast my burden on the Lord, I would rise from my knees, and go off cheerfully. *I had been taught to pray. My father prayed in his family;* and I now found the benefit of the religious instructions I had received.

"On one occasion, while on our journey, I was sent some distance for water. Supposing that I was entirely out of view, I gave vent to my feelings, and wept abundantly. The old Indian, however, had watched me, and noticing the marks of tears on my cheeks, he shook his tomahawk over my head, to let me know I must not do so again. Their object in sending me off was, as I suppose, to see whether I would attempt to escape, as the situation appeared favorable for that purpose. After this, I was no longer fastened with a halter. In about two weeks after I was sold. My mistress sent me, with others, on a hunting excursion. In this we

were very unsuccessful. The snow being knee deep, my blanket too short to cover me, and having very little other clothing, my sufferings from hunger and cold were intense. Often, after having lain down, and drawn up my feet to get them under the blanket, I became so benumbed that it was with difficulty that I could straighten myself again. Early in the morning, the old Indian would build up a large fire, and make me and the young Indians plunge all over in cold water. This, I think, was a great benefit, as it prevented us from taking cold.

"When we returned from hunting, in the spring, the old man gave me up to Captain Elliot, a trader, from Detroit. But my mistress, on hearing this, became very angry, threatened Elliot, and got me back. Some time in April there was a dance at a town about two miles from where I resided. This I attended, in company with the Indian to whom I belonged. Meeting with a French trader from Detroit, by the name of Batest Ariome, who took a fancy to me on account of my resemblance to one of his sons, he bought me for fifty dollars in Indian money.\* Before leaving the dance, I met with a Mr. Sherlock, a trader from Kentucky, who had formerly been a prisoner to the same tribe of Indians, and who had rescued a lad by the name of Moffit, who had been captured at the head of Clinch, and whose father was an intimate and particular friend of my

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\* This consisted of silver brooches, crosses, etc.

father's.\* I requested Mr. Sherlock to write to my father, through Mr. Moffit, informing him of my captivity, and that I had been purchased by a French trader, and was gone to Detroit. This letter, I have reason to believe, father received, and that it gave him the first information of what had become of me.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ariome were to me parents indeed. They treated me like one of their own sons. I ate at their table, and slept with their sons, in a good feather bed. They always gave me good counsel, and advised me (particularly Mrs. Ariome) not to abandon the idea of returning to my friends. I worked on the farm with his sons, and occasionally assisted him in his trading expeditions. We traded at different places, and sometimes went a considerable distance in the country.

"On one of these occasions, four young Indians began to boast of their bravery; and among other things, said that one Indian could whip four white men. This provoked me, and I told them that I could whip all four of them. They immediately attacked me, but Mr. Ariome, hearing the noise, came and took me away. This I considered a kind providence; for the Indians are very unskillful in boxing, and in this manner of fighting, I could easily have whipped all of them; but when they began to find themselves worsted, I expected them to attack me with clubs, or some other weapon,

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\* Mr. Moffit had then removed to Kentucky, and was still living there.

and if so, had laid my plans to kill them all with a knife, which I had concealed in my belt, mounted a fleet horse, which was close at hand, and escape to Detroit.

"It was on one of these trading expeditions, that I first heard of the destruction of father's family. This I learned through a Shawnee Indian, with whom I had been acquainted when I lived with them, and who was one of the party on that occasion. I received this information some time in the same summer after it occurred. In the following winter, I learned that my sister Polly had been purchased by Mr. Stogwell, an American by birth, but unfriendly to the American cause. He was a man of bad character—an unfeeling wretch—and treated my sister with great unkindness. At that time he resided a considerable distance from me. When I heard of my sister, I immediately prepared to go and see her; but as it was then in the dead of winter, and the journey would have been attended with great difficulties, on being told, by Mr. S., that he intended to remove to the neighborhood where I resided in the following spring, I declined it. When I heard that Mr. Stogwell had removed, as was contemplated, I immediately went to see her. I found her in the most abject condition, almost naked, being clothed with only a few dirty and tattered rags, exhibiting to my mind, an object of pity indeed. It is impossible to describe my feelings on that occasion; sorrow and joy were both combined; and I have no doubt the feelings of my sister were similar to my own. On being advised, I applied to the commanding officer at Detroit, informing him of her treat-

ment, with the hope of effecting her release. I went to Mr. Simon Girty, and to Col. McKee, the superintendent of the Indians, who had Mr. Stogwell brought to trial to answer to the complaint brought against him. But I failed to procure her release. It was decided, however, when an opportunity should occur for our returning to our friends, she should be released without remuneration. This was punctually performed, on application of Mr. Thomas Ivins,\* who had come in search of his sister Martha, already alluded to, who had been purchased from the Indians by some family in the neighborhood, and was, at that time, with a Mr. Donaldson, a worthy and wealthy English farmer, and working for herself.

“All being now at liberty, we made preparations for our journey to our distant friends, and set out, I think, some time in the month of October, 1789; it being a little more than five years from the time of my captivity, and a little more than three years from the time of the captivity of my sister and Martha Ivins. A trading boat coming down the lakes, we obtained a passage, for myself and sister, to the Moravian towns, a distance of about two hundred miles, and on the route to Pittsburgh. There, according to appointment, we met with Mr. Ivins and his sister, the day after our arrival. He had, in the meantime, procured three horses, and we immediately set out for Pittsburgh. Fortunately for us, a party of friendly Indians, from these towns, were about

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\* This name is spelled wrong, the orthography being Evans.

starting on a hunting excursion, and accompanied us for a considerable distance on our route, which was through a wilderness, and the hunting-ground of an unfriendly tribe. On one of the nights, during our journey, we encamped near a large party of these hostile Indians. The next morning four or five of their warriors, painted red, came into our camp. This much alarmed us. They made many inquiries, but did not molest us, which might not have been the case, if we had not been in company with other Indians. After this, nothing occurred, worthy of notice, until we reached Pittsburgh. Probably we would have reached Rockbridge that fall, if Mr. Ivins had not, unfortunately, got his shoulder dislocated. In consequence of this, we remained until spring with an uncle of his, in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. Having expended nearly all his money in traveling, and with the physician, he left his sister and proceeded on with sister Polly and myself, to the house of our uncle, William McPhætus, about ten miles south-west of Staunton, near the Middle river. He received, from uncle Joseph Moore, the administrator of father's estate, compensation for his services, and afterward returned and brought in his sister."

Mr. Moore finally returned to Tazewell county, and settled on the lands formerly occupied by his father. He raised a numerous and respectable family, one of whom still resides upon the place. Mr. Moore, the subject of this narrative, lived to an advanced age. He died in September, 1851, in the eighty-first year of his age.

## MASSACRE OF CAPT. JAMES MOORE'S FAMILY.

In July, 1786, a party of forty-seven Indians, of the Shawanoes tribe, again entered Abb's valley. Capt. James Moore usually kept five or six loaded guns in his house, which was a strong log building, and hoped, by the assistance of his wife, who was very active in loading a gun, together with Simpson, a man who lived with him, to be able to repel the attack of any small party of Indians. Relying on his prowess, he had not sought refuge in a fort, as many of the settlers had ; a fact of which the Indians seem to have been aware, from their cutting out the tongues of his horses and cattle, and partially skinning them. It seems they were afraid to attack him openly, and sought rather to drive him to the fort, that they might sack his house.

On the morning of the attack, Capt. Moore, who had previously distinguished himself at Alamance, was at a lick bog, a short distance from his house, salting his horses, of which he had many. William Clark and an Irishman were reaping wheat in front of the house. Mrs. Moore and the family were engaged in the ordinary business of housework. A man, named Simpson, was sick up-stairs.

The two men, who were in the field, at work, saw the Indians coming, in full speed, down the hill, toward Captain Moore's, who had ere this discovered them, and started in a run for the house. He was, however, shot through the body, and died immediately. Two of his children, William and

Rebecca, who were returning from the spring, were killed\* about the same time. The Indians had now approached near the house, and were met by two fierce dogs, which fought manfully to protect the family of their master. After a severe contest, the fiercest one was killed, and the other subdued. I shall again use Mr. Brown's narrative, it being quite authentic.

"The two men who were reaping, hearing the alarm,\* and seeing the house surrounded, fled, and alarmed the settlement. At that time, the nearest family was distant six miles. As soon as the alarm was given, Mrs. Moore and Martha Ivins (who was living in the family) barred the door, but this was of no avail. There was no man in the house, at this time, except John Simpson, the old Englishman, already alluded to, and he was in the loft, sick and in bed. There were five or six guns in the house, but having been shot off the evening before, they were then empty. It was intended to have loaded them after breakfast. Martha Ivins took two of them and went up stairs where Simpson was, and handing them to him, told him to shoot. He looked up, but had been shot in the head through a crack, and was then near his end. The Indians then proceeded to cut down the door, which they soon effected: During this time,

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\* They saw the Indians before a gun was fired, and squatted in the grain till the Indians surrounded the house, and then started; Clark ran directly to Davidson's fort; the Irishman to a settlement creek, on Bluestone, about six miles distant. The Irishman got lost, and coming upon a drove of horses, frightened them. The horses, of course, ran home, and he followed.



Martha Ivins went to the far end of the house, lifted up a loose plank, and went under the floor, and requested Polly Moore (then eight years of age) who had the youngest child, called Margaret, in her arms (which was crying), to set the child down, and come under. Polly looked at the child, clasped it to her breast, and determined to share its fate. The Indians, having broken into the house, took Mrs. Moore and her children, viz: John, Jane, Polly, and Peggy prisoners, and having taken everything that suited them, they set it and the other buildings on fire, and went away. Martha Ivins remained under the floor a short time, and then came out and hid herself under a log that lay across a branch, not far from the house. The Indians, having tarried a short time, with a view of catching horses, one of them walked across this log, sat down on the end of it, and began to fix his gunlock. Miss Ivins, supposing that she was discovered, and that he was preparing to shoot her, came out and gave herself up. At this he seemed much pleased. They then set out for their towns. Perceiving that John Moore was a boy, weak in body and mind, and unable to travel, they killed him the first day. The babe they took two or three days, but it being fretful, on account of a wound it had received, they dashed its brains out against a tree. They then moved on with haste to their towns. For some time, it was usual to tie, very securely, each of the prisoners at night, and for a warrior to lie beside each of them, with tomahawk in hand, so that in case of pursuit, the prisoners might be speedily dispatched. \* \* \* \* \*

"Shortly after they reached the towns, Mrs. Moore and her daughter Jane were put to death, being burned and tortured at the stake. This lasted some time, during which she manifested the utmost Christian fortitude, and bore it without a murmur, at intervals conversing with her daughter Polly, and Martha Ivins, and expressing great anxiety for the moment to arrive, when her soul should wing its way to the bosom of its Savior. At length an old squaw, more humane than the rest, dispatched her with a tomahawk."

Polly Moore and Martha Evans eventually reached home, as described in the narrative of James Moore.

Several incidents, in this narrative, have been left out. When the Indians set fire to the house and started, they took from the stable the fine black horse *Yorick*. He was a horse of such a vicious nature, that no one could manage him but Simpson. The Indians had not proceeded far when one mounted him, but soon the horse had him on the ground, and was pawing him to death with his feet; for this purpose a few strokes were sufficient. Another mounted him and was served in like manner. Perfectly wild with rage, a very large Indian mounted him, swearing to ride him or kill him; a few plunges and the Indian was under the feet of the desperate horse, his teeth buried in his flesh, and uttering a scream as if he intended to avenge the death of his master; he had just dispatched the Indian, when another running up, stabbed him, and thus put an end to the conflict. "ALAS! POOR YORICK."

It is said that Mrs. Moore had her body stuck full of

\*lightwood splinters which were fired, and she was thus tortured three days, before she died.

When Martha Evans and Polly Moore were among the French, they fared much worse than when among the Indians. The French had plenty, but were miserly, and seemed to care little for their wants. The Indians had little, but would divide that little to the last particle.

A song, in commemoration of the Moore captivity, is sung by some of the mountaineers to this day, but as it is devoid of poetical merit I omit its insertion. It may be seen in Howe's History of Virginia.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### HARMAN AND PEMBERTON FIGHTS—BATTLE BETWEEN THE HARMANS AND SEVEN INDIANS.

IN the fall of 1784, Henry Harman and his two sons, George and Matthias, and George Draper left the settlement, to engage in a bear hunt on Tug river. They were provided with pack-horses, independent of those used for riding, and on which were to be brought in the game. The country in which their hunt was to take place, was penetrated by the "war-path" leading to, and from the Ohio river; but as it was late in the season, they did not expect to meet with Indians.

Arriving at the hunting-grounds in the early part of the

evening, they stopped and built their camp; a work executed generally by the old man, who might be said to be particular in having it constructed to his own taste. George and Matthias loaded, and put their guns in order, and started to the woods, to look for sign, and perchance kill a buck for the evening's repast, while Draper busied himself in hobbling and caring for the horses.

In a short time, George returned with the startling intelligence of Indians! He had found a camp but a short distance from their own, in which the partly consumed sticks were still burning. They could not, of course, be at any considerable distance, and might now be concealed near them, watching their every movement. George, while at the camp, had made a rapid search for sign, and found a pair of leggins, which he showed the old man. Now old Mr. Harman, was a type of frontiersmen, in some things, and particularly that remarkable self-possession, which is so often to be met with in new countries, where dangers are ever in the path of the settler. So taking a seat on the ground, he began to interrogate his son on the dimensions, appearances, etc., of the camp. When he had fully satisfied himself, he remarked, that "there must be from five to seven Indians," and that they must pack up and hurry back to the settlement, to prevent, if possible, the Indians from doing mischief; and, said he, "*if we fall in with them, we must fight them.*"

Matthias was immediately called in, and the horses repacked. Mr. Harman and Draper, now began to load their guns, when the old man observing Draper laboring under what is

known among hunters as the 'Buck Ague,' being that state of excitement, which causes excessive trembling, remarked to him, "My son, I fear you cannot fight."

The plan of march was now agreed upon, which was, that Mr. Harman and Draper should lead the way, the pack-horses follow them, and Matthias and George, bring up the rear. After they had started, Draper remarked to Mr. H., that he would get ahead, as he could see better than Mr. H., and that he would keep a sharp lookout. It is highly probable that he was cogitating a plan of escape, as he had not gone far before he declared he saw the Indians, which proved not to be true. Proceeding a short distance further, he suddenly wheeled his horse about, at the same time crying out, "Yonder they are—behind that log:" as a liar is not to be believed, even when he speaks the truth, so Mr. Draper was not believed this time. Mr. Harman rode on, while a large dog, he had with him, ran up to the log and reared himself up on it, showing no signs of the presence of Indians. At this second, a sheet of fire and smoke from the Indian rifles, completely concealed the log from view, for Draper had really spoken the truth.

Before the smoke had cleared away, Mr. Harman and his sons were dismounted, while Draper had fled with all the speed of a swift horse. There were seven of the Indians, only four of whom had guns; the rest being armed with bows and arrows, tomahawks and scalping-knives. As soon as they fired, they rushed on Mr. Harman, who fell back to where his two sons stood ready to meet the Indians.

They immediately surrounded the three white men, who had formed a triangle, each man looking out, or, what would have been, with men enough, a hollow square. The old gentleman bid Matthias to reserve his fire, while himself and George fired, wounding, as it would seem, two of the Indians. George was a lame man, from having had white swelling in his childhood, and after firing a few rounds, the Indians noticed his limping, and one who had fired at him, rushed upon him thinking him wounded. George saw the fatal tomahawk raised, and drawing back his gun, prepared to meet it. When the Indian had got within striking distance, George let down upon his head with the gun, which brought him to the ground; he soon recovered, and made at him again, half bent and head foremost, intending, no doubt, to trip him up. But as he got near enough, George sprang up and jumped across him, which brought the Indian to his knees. Feeling for his own knife, and not getting hold of it, he seized the Indian's and plunged it deep into his side. Matthias struck him on the head with a tomahawk, and finished the work with him.

Two Indians had attacked the old man with bows, and were maneuvering around him, to get a clear fire at his left breast. The Harmans, to a man, wore their bullet-pouches on the left side, and with this and his arm he so completely shielded his breast, that the Indians did not fire till they saw the old gentleman's gun nearly loaded again, when one fired on him, and struck his elbow near the joint, cutting one of the principal arteries. In a second more, the fearful string

was heard to vibrate, and an arrow entered Mr. Harman's breast and lodged against a rib. He had by this time loaded the gun, and was raising it to his face to shoot one of the Indians, when the stream of blood from the wounded artery flew in the pan, and so soiled his gun that it was impossible to make it fire. Raising the gun, however, had the effect to drive back the Indians, who retreated to where the others stood with their guns empty.

Matthias, who had remained an almost inactive spectator, now asked permission to fire, which the old man granted. The Indian at whom he fired appeared to be the chief, and was standing under a large beech tree. At the report of the rifle, the Indian fell, throwing his tomahawk high among the limbs of the tree under which he stood.

Seeing two of their number lying dead upon the ground, and two more badly wounded, they immediately made off; passing by Draper, who had left his horse, and concealed himself behind a log.

As soon as the Indians retreated, the old man fell back on the ground exhausted and fainting from loss of blood. The wounded arm being tied up and his face washed in cold water, soon restored him. The first words he uttered were, "We've whipped, give me my pipe." This was furnished him, and he took a whiff, while the boys scalped one of the Indians.

When Draper saw the Indians pass him, he stealthily crept from his hiding-place, and pushed on for the settlement, where he reported the whole party murdered. The people

assembled and started soon the following morning to bury them; but they had not gone far before they met Mr. H. and his sons, in too good condition to need burying.

Upon the tree, under which the chief was killed, is roughly carved an Indian, a bow, and a gun, commemorative of the fight. The arrows which were shot into Mr. Harman, are in possession of some of his descendants.

## PEMBERTON'S FIGHT.

Richard Pemberton, the hero of this battle, lived in the Baptist valley, about five miles from Jeffersonville. In addition to a small farm around his cabin, he cultivated a field, now owned by William O. George, about one and a half miles from his dwelling.

On a Sabbath morning late in August, 1788, he started to his field accompanied by his wife and two children, to see that his fences were not down, and to repair any breach that might have been made. According to the custom of the times, Mr. Pemberton had taken with him his gun, which was his constant companion. After satisfying himself that his crops were safe, the little party started back. They had gone but a few hundred yards, however, when two Indians, armed with bows and arrows, knives, and tomahawks, came yelling toward them at full speed. In an instant the pioneer's gun was leveled and the trigger pulled; it missed fire, and in his hurry to spring the lock again, he broke it, and of course could not fire. Seeing him raise his gun to shoot, caused the Indians to halt, and commence firing arrows at him. Keep-



ing himself between his wife and children and the Indians, he ordered them to get on as fast as possible and try to reach a house at which a Mr. Johnson lived, and where several men were living. This house was some half mile distant, but he hoped to reach it, and save those whom he held dearest—his wife and children. The Indians made every possible attack to separate him from his family, all of which proved vain. They would retreat to a respectful distance, and then come bounding back like so many furies from the regions of indescribable woe. When they came too near, he would raise his gun as if he was really reserving his fire, which would cause them to halt and surround him. But at every attack they shot their arrows into his breast, causing great pain.

For nearly an hour this running fight was kept up; still the blood-thirsty savages pressed on; at last, he was sufficiently near to Johnson's house to be heard, and he raised his powerful voice for succor; he was heard, but no sooner did the men at the house hear the cry of "Indians," than they took to their heels in an opposite direction. At last he arrived at the house, closely pursued by the Indians, and entering after his family, barred up the door, and began to make preparations for acting more upon the offensive, when the Indians made a rapid retreat. Pemberton reached his own house the following day, where he resided many years, an eyesore to those who had so ingloriously fled from his assistance. Many arrow points which entered his breast, were never removed, and were carried to the end of life,

as the best certificate of his bravery, and devotion to his family.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### CAPTIVITY OF THE DAVIDSON FAMILY, AND OTHER MASSACRES.

To tell a tale of Indian barbarity, is at all times painful. Even where the hardy backwoodsman is the victim, our sympathies become aroused for those of our own race, and we ardently wish the tale could have been otherwise told. But I have only learned the extent of my sympathy, when mothers and children have been the suffering party, in a tale told me by a hoary-headed old man, whose breast would heave as though some uncommon emotion was interfering with the natural pulsations of his heart. To witness the pearly drops gathering in his eye, as memory called up the days of yore, and the trembling of his voice, as he recounted the many sufferings of the captive mother or daughter, have never failed to awaken the tenderest sympathies of my soul, and produce a desire to so tell the same tale, that others might be similarly affected. This, though, cannot be done—the intonations of the voice cannot be written, nor would it be in proper taste to attempt to throw around a scene, intended for a historical collec

tion, the enchanting colors of language. Beside, there are a variety of tastes to please, and the writer who can give universal satisfaction has yet to write. There is one distinguishing feature, however, which all admire, and I have made this the test by which I have tried my labors, viz: *simple truth*. It is my place to record the *fact*, which may, in course of time, become material for him who delights to dwell on the ideal.

Andrew Davidson left his house, on business of importance, which would keep him from home several days. His horse was ready saddled, and kissing his wife and children, bade them adieu for a season, promising to make all speed and return. Long and anxiously did the kind-hearted mother look at his retiring form. But as he passed from her sight, she turned again to her children, and silently wept over them, as if she felt the desolation of her situation. The family consisted of the three children of Mrs. Davidson, two girls and a boy, all small, and a bound boy and a girl, orphans, whose parents were Broomfields.

The bound children were between seven and ten, and, of course, were but little help to Mrs. Davidson. At the period of which I write, 1789-'90, the women of western Virginia willingly shared in the more laborious part of the household toil, and when their husbands were absent, performed such labors as were before performed by their husbands.

Several days had elapsed since the departure of her husband, when Mrs. Davidson found her doors suddenly dark-

ened by the swarthy forms of several Indians, who, speaking English, told her she must go with them to their towns in the west.

There remained no alternative to her, though her situation was such as almost to prevent the possibility of her performing such a trip. She took up her youngest child, the Indians taking the others, and left the house to try the realities of Indian captivity, of which she had heard much said. They had not proceeded far when they relieved her of her burden; one of the Indians taking her child, and, unexpectedly to her, carried it on in safety.

The exertions and anxiety of mind undergone by Mrs. Davidson, was the cause of an addition of numbers to the captives. Two hours' relaxation from the march, was sufficient rest, in the estimation of the Indians, and again they pushed on, one of the Indians carrying the stranger, which after a day's time, was drowned, on account of apparent or real indisposition.

The Indians who captured Mrs. Davidson, were more humane than she expected. They seemed to pity her, and showed every leniency that could be asked for, under the circumstances.

But, when they arrived at the Indian towns, quite a different fate awaited them. The two girl children were tied to trees, and shot before her eyes. The boy, her son, was given to an old squaw, who, in passing over a river, upset her canoe, and he was drowned. What became of the bound boy and girl was never known.

Mr. Davidson, two years after, it being a time of peace, went to the Shawanoe towns to look for his wife, who had been sold to a French gentleman. - Mr. Davidson made inquiries after her, but could learn nothing of her fate. An old Indian, who no doubt pitied him, told him that if any Indian in the town knew of her whereabouts, he could not be told, as they would have to refund the price paid for her in case she had to be given up. But, that if he (Mr. Davidson) would go home, that he would find out where his wife was, and inform him. Mr. Davidson returned, little thinking that the Indian would keep his promise.

In a short time after Mr. Davidson returned, the old Indian conveyed the necessary intelligence to him, and he set out a second time, but now toward Canada, whither he had been informed she was. When he had got into the Canada settlements, he stopped at the house of a wealthy French farmer, to get a meal's victuals, and to inquire the way to some place where he had heard she was.

He noticed a woman passing him, as he entered the house, but merely bowed to her and went in. Asking for his dinner, he seated himself, and was, perhaps, running over in his mind, the chances of finding his wife, when again the woman entered. She laid down her wood, and looked at the stranger steadily for a moment, when she turned to her mistress, and said: "*I know that man.*" "Well, who is he?" said the French lady. "*It is my husband!* Andrew Davidson, I am your wife." Mr. Davidson could scarcely believe his senses. When he last saw her, she was a fine, healthy-

looking woman ; her hair was black as coal ; but now, her head was gray, and she looked many years older than she should have looked. Yet it was her, though he declared nothing but her voice seemed to say she was Rebecca Davidson.

Soon the French gentleman returned, and being a humane man, gave up Rebecca to her husband, also a considerable sum of money, and next morning sent them on their way rejoicing.

#### THE HENRY FAMILY MASSACRED.

In May, 1776, John Henry and his family fell victims to savage barbarity. Mr. Henry lived in Thompson's valley, on a plantation now owned by James S. Witten. The circumstances attending this melancholy occurrence, are not sufficiently clear. The simple fact of the massacre is beyond doubt. But the old gentleman who furnished me with the circumstances, showed such marked evidences of a decaying state of the mind, that I fear the tale is not altogether as authentic as we might desire. But impressions of this kind seem to be indelibly written upon memory's tablet, even when other incidents, of a different nature, are forgotten. More than once have I seen this exemplified in conversing with the witnesses to the incidents which have been given.

Mr. Henry had retired to rest with the blessing of a good conscience—the honest man's reward—resting upon his head. After passing a night of quiet rest, he arose and dressed himself to prepare for the labors of the coming day. His wife had also arisen, and was preparing to commence some culinary operation. The children—seven in

number — were asleep, little dreaming how soon they were to be startled from the morning's slumber by the sharp crack of an Indian rifle.

The sun had already begun to cast the golden tints of a summer-morning upon the light clouds which floated in the western atmosphere; yet it was not light, and might best be illustrated by saying it was the gray of the morning, when Mr. Henry stepped to the door and unbolted it, with the intention, no doubt, of looking abroad, and yawning in the open air. Stepping in the door, he stretched himself up to inhale the sweet odors of the morning breeze, when a party of Indians, who lay near, fired a gun, and he fell on his face in the yard. He wore on the waistbands of his pantaloons, a large metal button, which must have served as a target to the Indian's gun, as the ball passed directly through it, and into Mr. Henry's body.

The savages rushed forward, no longer fearing the stout arm of Henry, and were soon among the sleeping babes, who had, as yet, scarcely waked from their slumbers. While the Indians were in the house, engaged in their horrible work, Henry rose to his feet, and started for Mr. Martin's, his nearest neighbor. He had seen the Indians pass him, and enter his house, and knowing his inability to assist his wife and children, he thought only of personal safety. Though bleeding, and feeling that his end was nigh, he pressed on for Martin's house, hoping to save Martin's family, if nothing more.

Martin had likewise risen early, intending to start to what

is now known as Smyth county, with his family. He had started, and was on the road when he met Henry on his hands and knees, crawling on as if determined to warn others of the presence of the Indians. But, poor man, he was now too weak to act the part of a messenger. Martin learned the circumstance, and placing Henry on a horse, so altered his course as to avoid passing Henry's house, and hurried on to the Cove, about seven miles distant. Here he left Henry, and proceeded to his destination. In a few hours Henry breathed his last, and was buried on the present plantation of William Barnes, Esq. A company was soon collected and preparations made to follow the Indians, whom it was supposed, had carried off the rest of the family. But when they arrived at the fatal spot, the family, consisting of a wife and six children, were found murdered, scalped, and piled up after the manner of a log heap, on a ridge a short distance from the house. One child was not to be found, a little boy, whom it was supposed had been carried off. A large hole was opened, which became a common grave for the mother and her unoffending children.

The identical spot on which Henry was buried, could not be marked for a number of years—a few years ago, a grave was opened near the supposed place, which accidentally proved to be the very spot on which Henry was buried, which was known from the presence of boards or puncheons, which had been substituted for a coffin, and the identical button through which the fatal ball passed. The button is now in possession of some one in this county.



## DEATH OF GILBERT.

In the latter part of the summer of 1792,\* Maj. Robert Crockett of Wythe, county, was informed that a considerable band of Indians had been seen in the settlement on the Clinch, endeavoring to steal horses, but had not at that time succeeded. He immediately raised a company of forty, and went in pursuit of them, thinking it likely that he should fall in with them as they were leaving the settlement with their booty.

He found their trail, over which they had but a short time passed, and having no doubt of the route which they would take, concluded that it would be an easy matter to come up with them that night. Being short of provisions, he stopped and ordered the men to separate in pairs, and try to kill a few deer. They were to hunt but two hours when the march was to be resumed.

Joseph Gilbert, and Samuel Lusk, acting as spies, were ordered to keep on and carefully note every sign, and in case they found the Indians, to return and give information. These two men were noted spies, and had often served together. They continued on the trail for about an hour, when they came upon a lick at which the Indians, who were also in need of provisions, lay concealed, waiting for the deer or elk which frequented it.

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\* I say, that this circumstance took place in the latter part of the summer, not because I was so informed, but from circumstances equally conclusive. The date furnished me was simply 1792, but it will be seen that the Indians were engaged in catching the young of the otter (*Lutra vulgaris*), which do not bring forth their young, till late in the summer.—(See Goldsmith and American Zoologist).

The Indians fired, missing Gilbert but wounding Lusk in the hand. Gilbert turned to run, and had made off a few yards, when Lusk called to him to return and save him, if possible. The affectionate tone in which this appeal was uttered, fired the manly heart of Gilbert, who turned about and shot the nearest Indian, who fell upon the spot. The Indians closed in upon him as he stood over the body of Lusk, who had fainted from loss of blood, but dropping his gun, he drew his heavy hunting-knife, and fell to upon the naked bodies of his enemies with such spirit, that the Indians no longer dared to approach within reach of his arm. Keeping out of his reach, they began to hurl their tomahawks at him with such force and accuracy, that he soon lay dead on the earth by the side of his now reviving companion. The wounded hand of Lusk was immediately cared for by the Indians, who after scalping Gilbert, commenced a rapid march for the Ohio. The firing was too far off to give Maj. Crockett any warning of what was going on; but when the two hours had expired, he took up the line of march and followed on after his spies. When they arrived at the lick, they found the body of Gilbert, and pushed on with all possible speed, after burying him near the bank of the creek which now bears his name, but could not come up with the Indians.

The Indians told Lusk, whom they took prisoner, and who returned in a short time, that if Maj. Crockett had not stopped to hunt, he must have cut them to pieces, as they were, but a few moments before they came to the lick, en-

gaged in catching young otters, their arms in the meantime lying on a little knoll several rods from them.

#### MURDER OF WILLIAM WHITLEY.

William Whitley lived in Baptist valley, and had been out on a bear hunt. He came home, and finding that a choice dog was gone, started the following morning to look for him. The day passed off and he did not return. His family became uneasy, and a company started out to hunt for him. They had not gone far, however, when they met a man named Scaggs, who had passed a murdered man at the mouth of Dick's Creek. The company pushed on and identified the man to be Whitley. He was dreadfully mutilated—his bowels torn out and stretched upon the bushes, his heart in one place, and liver in another. A hole was opened, and the fragments gathered up and interred. This happened in 1786.

#### MOFFIT'S CHILDREN CAPTURED.

Capt. Moffit lived near Clinch river, on the plantation now owned by Kiah Harman. Two of his children were attending to a sugar camp, when they were captured and taken off to the Indian towns in the west. Whether the boys ever got back is unknown, as Captain Moffit soon afterward moved to Kentucky, where some of his descendants still reside.

#### MASSACRE OF THE ROARK FAMILY.

James Roark lived at the gap of the dividing ridge, between the waters of the Clinch and Sandy rivers, through

which passed the Dry Fork road, and which has since been known as Roark's Gap. Early in 1789, a band of Shawanoe Indians left their homes in the west, and ascending the Dry fork, fell upon the defenseless family of Mr. Roark, and killed his wife and several children. Two sons and Mr. Roark were from home, and, it may be, thus saved their own lives, as the Indians were rather numerous to have been beaten off by them, even if they had been at home.

This is the only instance that I have met with, of the Indians visiting the settlements of Tazewell before the winter had clearly broken. There was a heavy snow upon the ground at this time.

From this time forward, the Roarks became the deadly enemies of the Indians, and sought them, even beyond the limits of the county. Mr. Roark and one of his sons (John), were afterward killed in a battle, fought at what was then known as the Station bottom, within the present limits of Floyd county, Kentucky.

#### RAY'S FAMILY KILLED.

I have been unable to learn anything of the particulars of this occurrence, more than the bare fact, that Joseph Ray and his family were killed by the Indians, on Indian Creek, in 1788 or '9. It is from this circumstance that Indian Creek has taken its name.

#### DANIEL HARMAN KILLED.

Daniel Harman left his house, on the head of Clinch, on a fine morning in the fall of 1791, for the purpose of

killing a deer. Where he went, for that purpose, is not known, but having done so, he started for home with the deer fastened to the cantle of his saddle. Harman was a great hunter, and owned a choice rifle, remarkable for the beauty of its finish, and the superior structure of its triggers, which were, as usual, of the double kind. So strong was the spring of these, that when sprung, the noise might be heard for a considerable distance. He was riding a large horse, fleet, and spirited, and had got within a mile of home, and was passing through a bottom, near the present residence, and on the lands of Mr. William O. George, when suddenly a party of Indians sprang from behind a log, and fired on him. He was unhurt, and putting spurs to his horse, away he went through the heavy timber, forgetting all other danger, in his precarious situation. On he went, but his horse, passing too near a tree, struck the rider's knee, breaking his leg, and throwing him from his horse. In a few minutes the savages were upon him, and with their tomahawks, soon put an end to his sufferings. The horse continued his flight till he got to the house, at which were several of the neighbors, who immediately went to look after Harman. Passing near the Indians, they heard the click of Harman's well-known trigger. A panic struck the men, and running in zigzag lines, they made a rapid retreat, leaving the Indians to silently retrace their steps from the settlement.

## DIALS AND THOMAS KILLED.

On the 11th of April, 1786, Matthias Harman and Ben-

jamin Thomas, returning from a spying expedition, stopped at John Peery's, where there lived a man, named Dials, who kept liquor for sale. The three (Harman, Thomas, and Dials) were soon under its influence, and the two who had just returned from the woods, being hungry, asked Mrs. Dials for dinner, which she promised to furnish if they would get some wood with which to cook it. Dials and Thomas started for that purpose, leaving Harman at the house. When they got to the mouth of the lane, which was about two hundred yards from the house, they were fired upon by a party of six or seven Indians. Three of the balls entered Dial's body, who fled toward the house, and a warrior after him. The Indian pressed him so close, that in catching at him, he succeeded in drawing Dial's shirt from his pantaloons. The Indian, finding that there were men at the house, gave up the chase and joined his companions at the mouth of the lane. Dials fell against the chimney corner and died in a few hours.

When the Indians fired, it seems that only one attempted to shoot Thomas, and he was so close that Thomas struck up his gun as he fired, and the ball entered an oak high above his head. He was, however, knocked down with a war-club, by another Indian, scalped, and left for dead. Harman, who was getting boozy enough to feel brave, ran out, mounted his horse, and pursued the Indians a short distance, challenging them to stop and fight. This they declined, and made off as rapidly as possible.

Thomas was left on the battle-ground till next morning,

when William Wynn found him, and took him to his fort, where he survived seven days. It seems a little strange that a wounded man should be left out all night; but he was supposed to be dead, and it was not necessary to disturb him till assistance could be got to bury him; and this could not be done sooner than the following day. Within the sound of one's voice, several hundred might now be collected on the spot in a few hours, but this is the year of our Lord 1852.

#### CAPTURE AND MASSACRE OF THE ENGLISH FAMILY.

In the spring of 1787, a small company of Shawanoe Indians entered Burk's Garden, through Wolf creek Gap, and attacked the family of Thomas English, who, at the time, resided upon the plantation now owned by John Thompson. Mr. English being absent, the Indians easily succeeded in taking Mrs. English and her children prisoners. Not long after the Indians had left the house, Mr. English returned, and, as he was passionately devoted to his family, made every possible exertion to get a company to go in pursuit of the Indians. His movements were so rapid, that by sunset, the same day, he and his party were fairly in pursuit. Night came on; but still the frantic husband and his brave companions pushed on. They came up with the Indians at about eleven o'clock at night. One of the men, named Thomas Maxwell, had on a white hunting-shirt, which English desired him to pull off; telling him that he would become a mark for the Indian rifles. He refused to do so, and declared his willingness to die. As soon as the Indians found

that the whites were in pursuit, they quickened their pace. English, who had been a prisoner among them, and speaking their language, bantered them to stop and fight him; all to no purpose, however, for as soon as they entered Maxwell's Gap they charged the Indians, who fired in return, upon the whites, doing no injury, however, to any except to Maxwell, whose white hunting-shirt had furnished a target amid the surrounding darkness. Hence the name of the gap in which this scene transpired.

The Indians, finding themselves pressed, killed one child, scalped another, and also Mrs. English.

Mrs. English and her mangled child were brought back to William Wynn's fort, where they received such attendance as was necessary. The child died the next day, but Mrs. English recovered, and raised a small family afterward.

## JOHN DAVIDSON KILLED.

At what precise time this occurrence took place I have not been able to learn. It is supposed to have occurred sometime in 1789-'90. Mr. Davidson was on his way home from a trip to Rockingham county, whither he had been on business, and had got as far back as to where John D. Peery now lives when he was killed by a band of Indians. The circumstances of his murder, were told to some prisoners who had been taken from this county, and who were then among the Indians. It seems that Mr. Davidson had stopped at an old cabin to feed his horse and rest himself, when the Indians fired on him. The Indians say, a white man was with them,



and that they found in his saddlebags a considerable sum of specie.

A few days after his son, Col. Davidson, became uneasy on account of his absence, and raising a small company went in search of him. Luckily, when they got to the cabin, they found a hatband, which, being of peculiar structure, was recognized as that worn by Mr. Davidson. After considerable search, his body was found stripped of clothing, and somewhat disfigured by birds.

As the Indians had been too long gone to be overtaken, Mr. Davidson was taken home and buried.

#### SKIRMISH AT THE ISLANDS OF GUYANDOTTE.

The Indians, in visiting the frontier settlements, had several objects in view; among which horse-stealing was an important one. It is true, that the Indians rarely failed to kill the whites when suitable opportunities were offered, but at the same time, it must be acknowledged that a fine horse was valued nearly as much as a scalp. And it was not unusual that the Indians spared the life of a few persons to get a drove of horses for the Canada markets. Companies starting on a horse-stealing expedition, were usually larger and better provided with provisions than the predatory bands which killed, or carried into captivity, the first settlers or their families.

Such a company made a descent upon the settlement of Bluestone, and on the head of Clinch in 1790, and after collecting about eighty horses, started for their towns in the

west. A hunter came upon their camp on the first night, which was but a short distance from the settlement, and hastened to give the alarm at the forts and stations. A large company from Bluestone, and another from the head of Clinch, were ready to go in pursuit by twelve o'clock the next day. They made forced marches, and came up with them about one o'clock at night, at what is called the Islands of Guyandotte. Some of the whites were for attacking them immediately, and others wished to wait till morning, when they might see. While thus in parley, the Indians in the meantime apparently preparing for some movement, a horse neighed; in a moment a fire was opened upon them, but to no effect. The Indians raised a yell, secured a few of the horses and fled, leaving a good breakfast, and several dozen pairs of moccasins to be taken home as trophies by the whites. The breakfast of bears' meat and turkey, was consumed by the whites, whose appetites were too keen to suffer themselves to enter into speculation as to the probable nicety of their runaway cooks.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### MOTIVES FOR WAR ON THE PART OF THE INDIANS.

It is a melancholy fact, which cannot be denied, that almost every American—every man, who has any idea of the principles of abstract justice—must, and generally does, acknowledge that the Indians have been badly treated, and

have ever had sufficient cause for making war upon the whites. Though the whites may not have made the first assault directly, yet they did indirectly. They came to their shores from countries where nations fought for conquest; and conquest was the avowed object of all the expeditions of discovery, from the time of the *Genoese* navigator to that of Raleigh.

Yes, they came as friends, but claimed the privilege of taking from the poor native, everything which he possessed if found valuable. A few valueless beads were given to the simple native in exchange for fortunes that princes might envy. The whites made settlements upon the lands of these people, and even tried to subject them to the chains of bondage; and when opposed by these *natural republicans*—fired by a patriotic love of country, home, and the graves of their ancestors—war! war to the knife, was opened upon them.

These people possessed sagacity enough to see, that a final obliteration of their race must be the result, and accordingly took such steps as their savage nature suggested, to prevent the catastrophe.

They waged a cruel war—which was returned with as much or more cruelty by the whites. The Indians waged a war for home—for wives—children—the tombs of their fathers, and their hunting-grounds. The cruel manner in which the whites were sometimes killed, did not justify a Christian people to wage a similar war, and butcher their victims in a like manner.

In most atrocities, in early warfare, by the Indians, the

cause came indirectly from the whites, who kept their wigwams in a state of riot by intoxicating liquors, of the excitement of which, the Indian as well as the white-man was fond; and when under its terrifying influence the Indian committed a depredation, the white-man was sure to repay it with a vengeance calculated to inflame the already over-excited resentment of the injured and insulted child of nature. All acknowledged that before the year 1492, the Indians owned every foot of land from the North Sea, to Cape Horn, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean; and that now, they do not own a foot which can be called their own. It will be said that the lands were purchased from the Indians: I answer by asking, What equivalent did they receive? they did not receive the value of a grain of wheat to the acre. Would the sale be a valid one in an American court of justice? No, the truth is, that the principle on which this land was bought, was to blind the eyes of the world, and did not show any desire on the part of our government, or the governments of Great Britain or Spain, to give the ignorant red-man a fair valuation of his lands. The sum required to do this, was forty-eight billions of dollars, or forty-eight thousand millions—a sum greater than all Europe was ever able to pay. For the ten or twenty millions paid the Indians, the whites have received seven fold from them in the shape of exchanges for valueless beads, etc.

It is said by a wise philosopher, that “intellect is universal in its application, it may become the handmaid of any of the faculties.” In this instance it seems to have been the instru-

ment by which the base passion of avarice sought satiation. And so the Indians now feel: in illustration I may be excused for here introducing a speech delivered at Fort Wayne in 1803, by an Indian chief, perhaps Laulewasikaw, the notorious prophet and brother to Tecumseh, the Tippecanoe warrior.

"The Master of Life," said he, "who was himself an Indian, made the Shawanoes before any other of the human race; and they sprang from his brain; he gave them all the knowledge he himself possessed, and placed them upon the great island, and all the other red people descended from the Shawanoes. He made the French and English out of his breast, the Dutch out of his feet, and the Long-knives (Virginians) out of his hands. All these inferior races of men he made white and placed them beyond the stinking lake (Atlantic Ocean). The Shawanoes continued for many ages to be masters of the continent, using the knowledge they had received from the Great Spirit in such a manner as to be pleasing to Him, and to secure their own happiness. In a great length of time, however, they became corrupt, and the Master of Life told them he would take away from them the knowledge which they possessed, and give it to the white people, to be restored when, by a return to good principles they should deserve it. Many ages after that, they saw something white approaching *their shores*; at first they took it for a great bird, but they soon found it to be a monstrous canoe, filled with those who had got the knowledge which belonged to the Shawanoes. After these white people landed, *they were not content with having the knowledge which*

*belonged to the Shawanoes, but they usurped their lands also:* they pretended indeed to have purchased these lands; but the very goods they gave for them, were more the property of the Indians than the white people, because the knowledge which enabled them to manufacture these goods, actually belonged to the Shawanoes: but these things will soon have an end. The Master of Life is about to restore to the Shawanoes both their knowledge and their rights, and he will trample the Long-knives under his feet.”\*

Tecumseh said to Gen. Harrison that, “the Americans had driven the Indians from the sea-coast, and would soon push them into the lakes,” and that he as one was, “resolutely determined to take a stand, and prevent, if possible, the farther encroachment of the whites upon the Indian lands.”†

It was this idea of knowledge and Christianity, being the instruments of torture and oppression, that drew from the lips of the St. Domingo chief, *Hautey*, the memorable remark which has portrayed so much truth in so few words. Having fled from St. Domingo to escape the oppression of the Spaniards, he was captured and ordered to be burned alive: this order was given by the governor of Cuba, Velasquez. When urged at the stake to embrace Christianity, he inquired if the white men would go to heaven? on being answered in the affirmative, he replied, “then I will not be a Christian; for I would not go again to a place where I must find men so cruel.”‡

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\* Life of Tecumseh.

† Dawson.

‡ Las Casas, in an article describing the cruelties of his countrymen in the New World, and quoted by Prescott in his conquest of Mexico.

Were I sent forth to find men true and brave, I know of none to whom I should go sooner than to the Indians. Were their deeds of heroism emblazoned upon the page of unfading history, a brighter light could not be cast upon the works of God.

I have been induced to make these remarks to mitigate, in a measure, the feelings that must have been harrowed up, by the perusal of the massacres contained in the last few chapters. I may be accused of being over-partial to the Indians; but I cannot persuade myself that such is the case, or that I have said one word too much for them, nay, rather do I feel my inability to do justice to the lords of the American forest, with whom, the proudest of the proud, might seek an alliance.

The day of trial to the poor Indian has not yet passed, the whites are yearly encroaching upon the territory set apart for their residence by the general government. Lawless men, who seek only self aggrandizement, are daily insinuating themselves among the Indians, and selling to them intoxicating liquors—destroying not only life, but domestic peace, and fitting the poor savages for the commission of deeds which will bring vengeance upon their heads.

If this custom is not arrested, we may expect to see the Indians continue to dwindle away before the now powerful, but ungrateful offspring of their guests, driven hither by oppression, but a few hundred years ago. That all deplore this fact, who suffer themselves to reflect for a moment, none will deny. We seldom meet with an individual who is so

dishonest as to claim that justice has been done the Indians even by historians.

With pleasure we recount the deeds of the heroes of past ages—each striving to color them highest—but amid all our labors, few wield the pen to perpetuate the deeds of heroism acted by the many brave warriors who have figured among the American Indians. Why is this? Ah! the answer is plain—it requires much labor, and does not pay so well as those labors which are bestowed on a familiar theme. Hannibals or Napoleons may not have led their hosts of red-men to the battle-fields in the forests of America; but men with the patriotism of a Washington, have fallen battling for their homes. How many must be the daring feats which have been performed by these brave people; and how pure were those emotions which actuated the Indian father to leave his home, and all its endearments, to repel the advancing foe! How devoted must have been that Indian mother to the land in which reposed the bones of her boy! for it has not yet been proved, that civilization and love are inseparable.

It may be, that the obliteration of the Indian race, was but the working of an allwise Providence, and if so, then none will complain. But that they might have been civilized, and brought to an understanding of the truth of Christianity, is proved beyond a doubt, by the present condition of, the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes. In college, the Indian boy has not been found deficient; nor can I subscribe to the opinion, sometimes expressed, that they are an inferior race of men. Circumstances have conduced to make them such—



but instances have not been wanting, where the unfavorable conditions have been removed, of great depth of mind, and general vivacity of intellectual powers, having been exhibited by the North American Savages.

It is a remarkable fact, that most of the tribes or fragments of tribes of North American Indians are but little more advanced than they were centuries ago. The Indians of the west, still hunt with the bow and arrow, and make war with the lance and shield. Their religion, manners and customs, have undergone little change for three hundred years. The same vague superstitions—the same stupid ignorance—the same mutual dissensions which have ever been the barriers to their prosperity, yet exist—a few tribes, originally settled east of the Mississippi river, have become somewhat civilized, and Christianized; but the greater portion of the western Indians are still savages. The labors of Christian missionaries have been too confined and cramped, to accomplish what we could have wished to see.

But surely, the Christian denominations, if not the general government will take some steps to reclaim this lost people. The more we learn of them, the more we find to admire. Then how noble would be the labor of a life among them, that their full history might now be saved, and not perish, as it will most likely, without exertions, in less than two centuries, when not one representative of these once powerful people will exist, to remind us of their ancestors—our benefactors.

Who is he that would not contribute something to the

cause of education—one of the first steps to civilization—among the poor ignorant savages of the western wilds? Surely, if such a man lives, he will not let his existence be known.

The day is coming when the western wilds must be converted into happy homes, and if the red-man who now occupies them is not first taught to fill the injunction laid upon Adam, he must go the way of his ancestors and be no more known among the nations of the earth.



## N O T E .

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It was originally my intention to have traced the personal history of most of the early settlers of this county; but I found that to do the subject anything like justice, it would swell the volume beyond what had been contemplated. Few of the early settlers, it is true, attained anything like political eminence; yet, taking into consideration the surrounding circumstances, we find much to admire in the characters of many of these men. Their devotion to the country, their heroic deeds during the frontier wars, their isolated condition, and manliness of character exhibited by them, deeply impress us with the most profound respect for men, who gave up all the ease and safety of more cultivated sections, and braved the terrors of the forest and its inmates, to procure for their sons and daughters, homes in the virgin lands of ancient XUALA.

From a few of the early settlers have sprung most of the citizens of the county. The Harmans, Peerys, Gillespies, and Wittens, are most numerous. I am of the opinion, that it would be better if the line of relationship was less distinctly drawn than it is; for it sometimes occurs, that political excitement is carried too far, in consequence of different views

taken by these large connections. Even among themselves, it is sometimes a serious evil. If, for instance, a large connection wish to elect one of their number to an office, and a few members of that extended family secede from the common interest, or join another party, they are cast off, and feelings of bitterness are ever after cherished. Now this would not be the case if this family feeling did not exist.

The many thousand anecdotes told of the early settlers, are worthy of insertion here, but as personal history, of which they are a part, my work would be swelled beyond its limits, and without them, the work will not fill quite as much space as I at first contemplated. Yet I imagine that when it is known that the incidents and facts herein contained are those of a single county, the work will be looked on as complete.

Many general facts, which would be suitable to the history of a state, are not suitable to this work—especially when this is regarded as a part of a great work which will be the complete history of south-western Virginia. I do not mean to say that I shall write a history of each county in south-western Virginia in a separate volume, for there are eighteen of these counties, and the work would be much too large. But I shall get the work up in about five volumes, each a complete history of a particular section.—From these five, a condensed work of two volumes will be written for general circulation. The next book in the series will embrace the Clinch valley, or the counties of Russell, Scott, and Lee. The third, will embrace the history of Washington, Smythe, Car-

roll, and Grayson; the fourth will embrace Wythe, Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, and Monroe. The fifth, will embrace the counties of Mercer, Wyoming, Fayette, Logan, Raleigh, Boone, Kanawha, and Cabell.

That this region is unknown, will be shown when the contemplated work is completed. As stated elsewhere in this book, many traditions of the early settlement of the south-west may now be gathered and placed upon record, but which in a few years will be irretrievably lost. That the work may not be delayed, I respectfully ask the friends of the enterprise, to commence now and gather such traditions and facts as may be known to exist, and forward them to my address (Jeffersonville, Tazewell county, Virginia). It is almost impossible for one person to collect all the existing facts of such an extended district, in anything like a reasonable time, therefore, it is desirable to get as much assistance as possible. If the notes are taken and forwarded to the Jeffersonville Historical Society, they will be preserved, even though this extended history is not carried out by me. The day is fast approaching, when the people of south-western Virginia, will take a prominent stand as patrons of literature; and such a labor will be appreciated. The car of progression is now moving on rapid wheels in south-western Virginia, and a few revolving years will present quite a different scene from the one of indifference now observable in this section. The introduction of steam as a motive power, and especially when applied to the rail-car, will introduce also a change in our manners and customs; our commercial operations will take

on a different cast, and surely if any country needs the fostering hand of commerce and the arts, to reclaim it, ancient XUALA is the one.

When we shall have good agricultural schools established, and a spirit of inquiry shall have been awakened among us, the citizens of the surrounding states, and the eastern part of our own, will begin to look upon our land as something else than a bed of rugged mountains.

If nature may be said to have been partial to any county, it was to this. Here is one of the most salubrious climates in the world—water of the purest quality, and a soil naturally productive, and capable of being swelled, in its productive agency, to almost any extent. I say that the car of progression is in motion; this is plainly perceivable by any one who will examine the statistics of 1840, and of 1850. The increase of population for the last ten years, has been nearly seventy per centum; while the increase in wealth has been more than 130 per centum. If this is not a sign of prosperity, what is?

When geological surveys shall have been made by the state government, and the mineral wealth of this region be made known, the rush by our eastern brethren will not be for the western states, but the western part of their own. For the eastern Virginian, in leaving his plains for a new home in the mountains of Virginia, will not regard his steps as so many taken toward his grave, for he will know that here, *care insures health*.

When our coal, gypsum, salt, lead, sulphur, iron, etc., shall

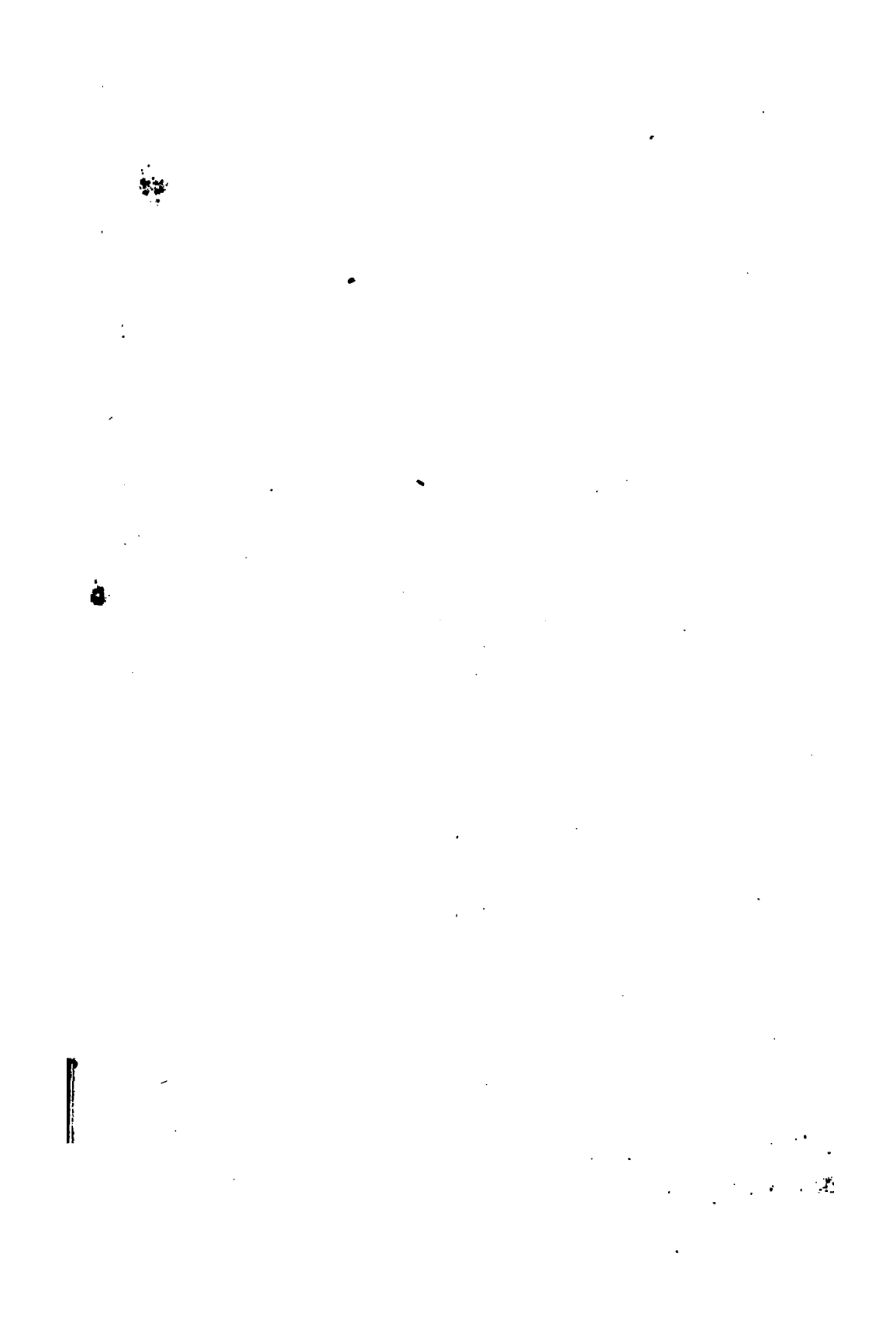
be brought into market by numerous diverging railroads, and our lands are stocked with improved cattle, and horses, and tilled according to the laws of science, we may expect to see Virginia once more taking the stand she so long occupied—the first of states.

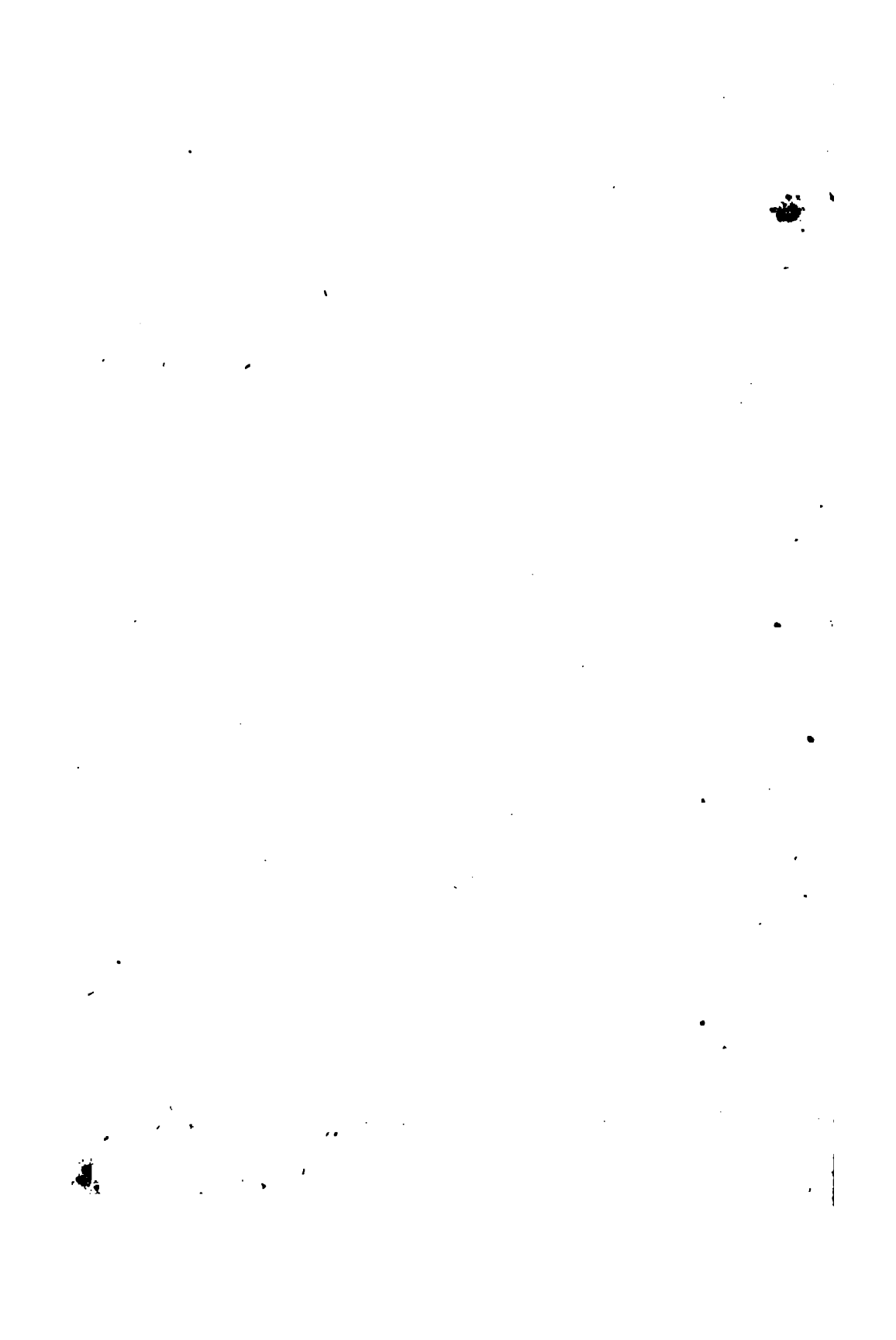
It has been the citizens of Virginia, who have built up so many of the western states. The tide of emigration is now checked, by the influence of a more liberal constitution; and it is to be hoped, as is really the case, that her sons, as wayward children, will soon be seen returning to their homes, to cultivate and make bloom the land of their nativity.









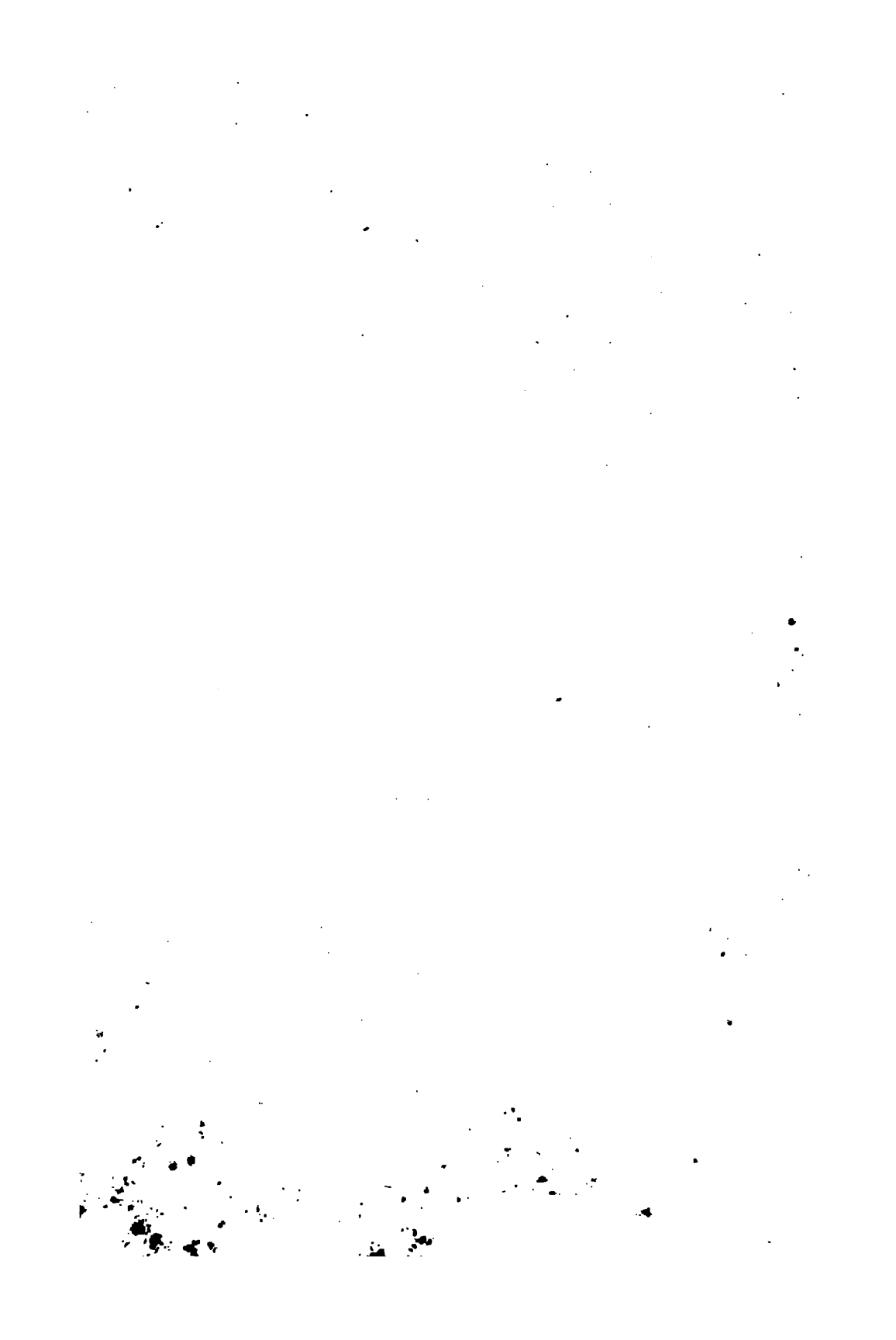


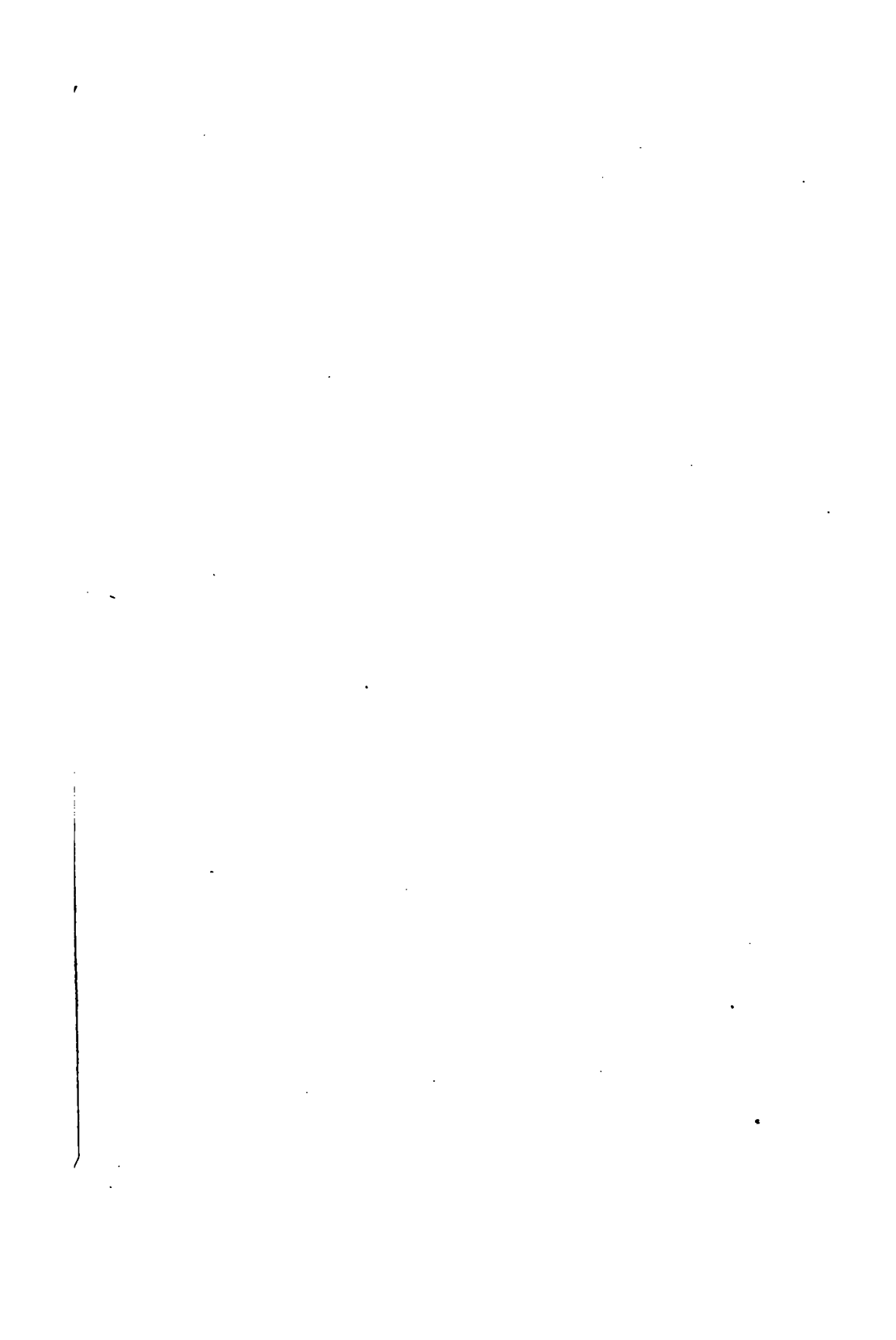
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Miss Sue M. Litchfield  
Miss Sue M. Litchfield



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